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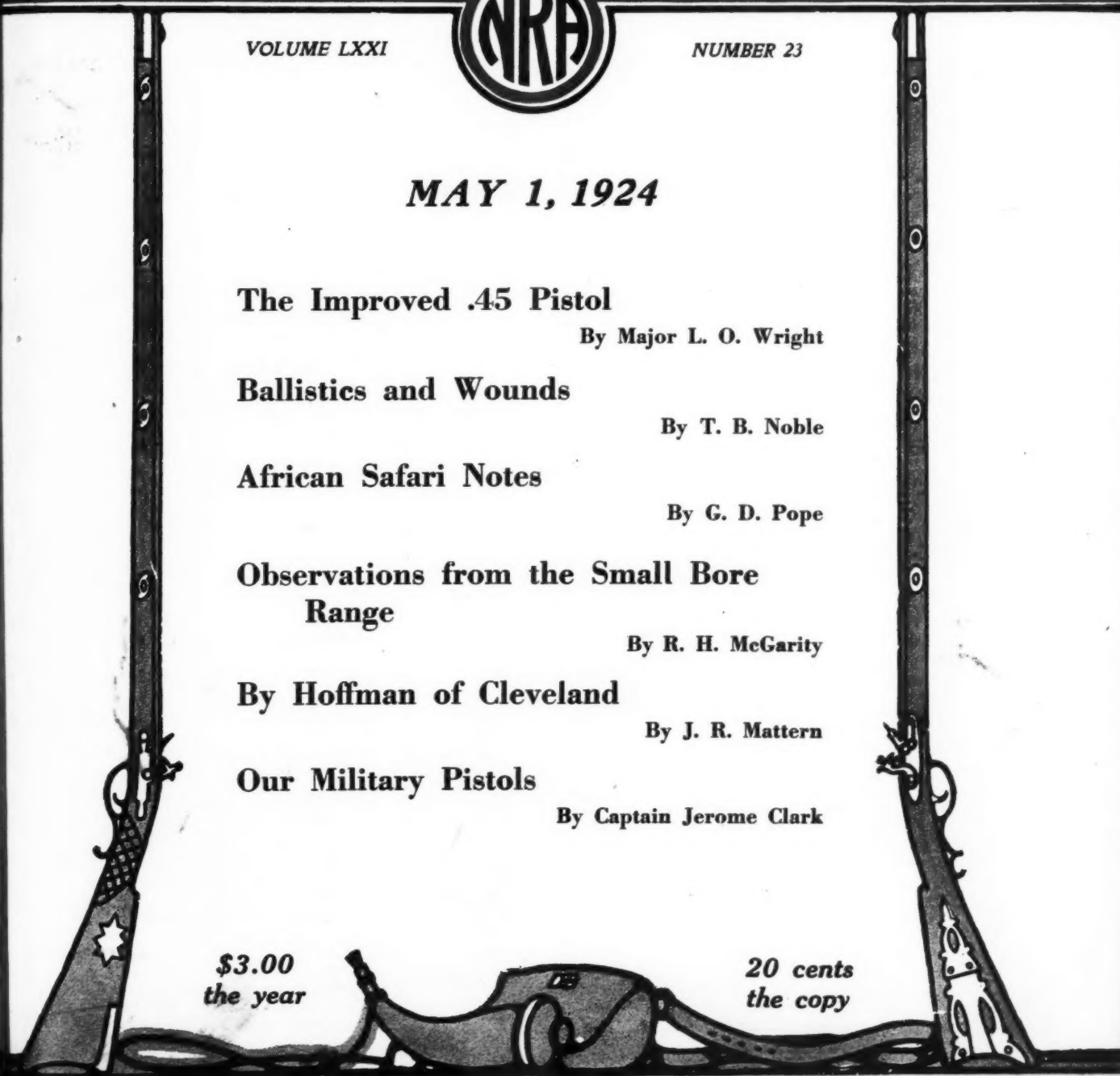
By J. R. Mattern

Our Military Pistols

By Captain Jerome Clark

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the copy**





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VIRGIL RICHARD

Here are five of the best rifle men in the world and each one attributes his success to the rifle and ammunition used—the Winchester 52 and Precision.

Virgil Richard of New Haven, Conn., at Camp Perry last fall shot 21 targets from 50 yards with iron sights and averaged slightly better than 99 per cent—a record equalled by no other shooter there.

Harry N. Thomas, also of New Haven, won the NRA gallery championship at 75 feet, this year for the third time.

A. L. Beale, of Keyser, W. Va., won the 50 foot championship this year, the 50 foot

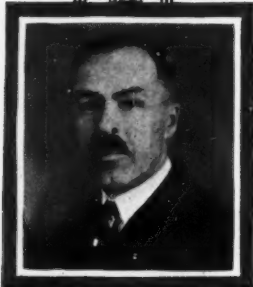
standing last year, and the 50 foot kneeling the year before.

Vernon Lee Beale is a son of A. L. He won the individual championship of the WJRC in 1922 and 1923 with perfect scores.

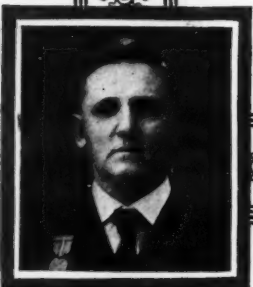
In J. R. Mooney of Chicago, Ill., we have another boy wonder. Turning 16 years of age he has just annexed the NRA gallery championship, sitting position, at 75 feet.

If you are not shooting the superb combination of rifle and ammunition used by the champions cited above and by more than 50 per cent of the participants in all small bore rifle matches, join the ranks of the majority TODAY.

Winchester Repeating Arms Company
New Haven, Conn.



H. N. THOMAS



A. L. BEALE



V. L. BEALE



J. R. MOONEY



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The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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The Improved .45 Pistol

By Major Lee O. Wright, Ord. Dept. U. S. A.

THE Colt Automatic Pistol, Model of 1911 was adopted as a result of comparative tests in 1911 to replace the caliber .45 revolver. The behavior of this weapon has been such as to justify the judgement of the Board in recommending its adoption. It is a dependable weapon and stands up well, considering the rough usage to which it is subjected.

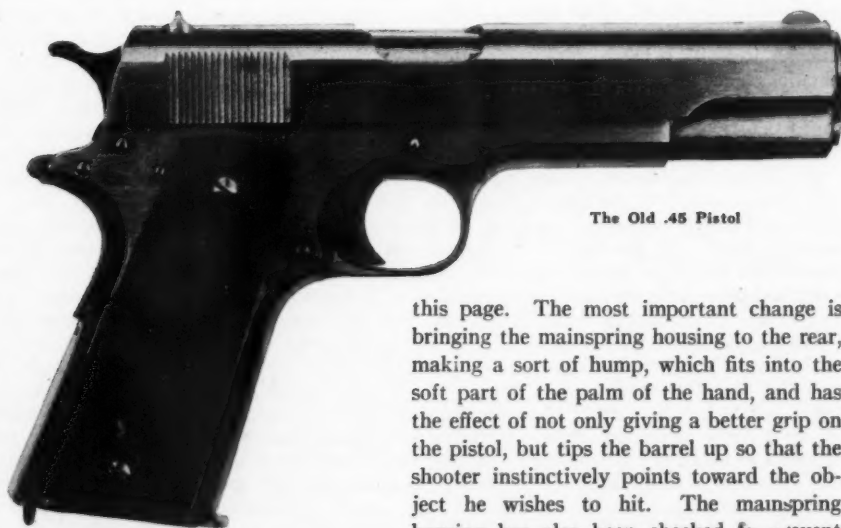
fact that the trigger projects forward so far. With the standard gun, the trigger is usually pulled with the first joint of the finger on it. Also the front sight is rather narrow for use in all conditions of light.

To remedy these defects, an improved model of the Colt Automatic Pistol, Model of 1911 has been approved by the Ordnance Department. Several of the modifications made were suggested by the Cavalry. A number of these improved pistols were made up and tested by the Cavalry Board at Fort Riley, and a very favorable report submitted. A few were exhibited at the National Matches last year and excited very favorable comment by the pistol shots assembled there.

A picture of the new pistol appears on



The New .45 Automatic Pistol



The Old .45 Pistol

Naturally, there have been criticisms of this weapon, but in the majority of cases it has been found that the criticisms were not well founded. Some of the objections raised however, have been pertinent, and an effort has been made to meet them. The most important of these is the fact that when the average man attempts to fire the weapon at an object, as one would point the index finger, the bullet almost invariably goes low. The angle between the grip and the bore is apparently too acute to fit the average man's hand. Another point brought out is the fact that with many men the fleshy part of the hand between the thumb and forefinger is pinched between the hammer and tang of the grip safety when the slide recoils. It is difficult for a man with a small hand to pull the trigger properly, due to the

this page. The most important change is bringing the mainspring housing to the rear, making a sort of hump, which fits into the soft part of the palm of the hand, and has the effect of not only giving a better grip on the pistol, but tips the barrel up so that the shooter instinctively points toward the object he wishes to hit. The mainspring housing has also been checked to prevent slipping when the hand is moist. The tang of the grip safety has been brought to the rear, so that it fits over the portion of the hand between the thumb and forefinger and prevents pinching the skin when the slide recoils. The trigger itself has been cut back approximately one-quarter inch, and the sides of the receiver, just back of the trigger, cut away. (Continued on Page 13)

Ballistics and Wounds

By Thomas B. Noble, Jr., M. D.

Sequel to "Bullets and Wounds"

SHE sure was hot! A scorcher! Sitting on the overhanging banks of a crooked creek with my three-year-old and pitching an occasional stone into its lifeless water consumed all the physical energy the day allotted to me. Idle speculation is the immediate antecedent of sleep under these conditions usually, but this day the hypnotic effect from the eyes following the ripples made by our stones started instead a train of thought that led on and on past the outermost ripple and ended up on these pages. Before going further along these lines, lean back in your chair, forget the phone, and prepare your thoughts for the idle imaginings of such an afternoon.

First for facts—obvious ones. Heavy, large rocks made large splashes and large, broad, far-reaching waves or ripples. Small, thin rocks thrown swiftly created small splashes with little weak waves—"cut butter" as Hoosiers, at least, say. You may use the same expression, perhaps. These observations have some bearing on things included in the above title as there is an analogy between bullets and rocks and water and animal tissue. Since the war, there has been considerable discussion of the types of wounds made by certain bullets and how the wounds are made. Although much has been learned all is not settled by any means, and attention has been attracted as a result to the area of killed tissue about the path of a high velocity bullet that results in so many unfortunate complications. Recently it has been presumed that vibrations like waves are set up about the path of a bullet and, travelling in concentric rings as do ripples, kill tissue not touched by the bullet.

This is not unreasonable when you consider that every cell in the body is bathed in tissue fluid and is composed largely of fluid elements itself. Of course the density of these body fluids is greater than that of water and offers correspondingly more resistance to the transmission of waves. Then, too, supporting tissues of a fibrous nature form a mesh everywhere which likewise interferes with the easy transmission of waves. Certainly, a bullet upon striking the body does set up a ripple similar to the ripples set up by rocks in water, and it is equally sure that this vibration is transmitted. Why then go over the ground again if this has already been noted and accepted? Well, just because I believe that these vibrations of impact play little or no part in making the cone of devitalization, and I have an idea as to what does.

A year ago, after "Bullets and Wounds" appeared by the kind indulgence of our secretary in *Arms and the Man*, I kicked up Whelen's masterpiece and lo!—there before me was all the dope necessary for any half-

wit medico to use in assembling the equivalent of what I had imagined was an original article. And how much better she was wrote! This time, to prevent a repetition of that plugged nickel feeling, I want to say here that if anyone has reached the following conclusions before me, let him stand up in meeting before this gets to print, if ever it does. Otherwise, hold your peace forevermore.

To begin with, I can not believe that the speed of the forward motion can be held accountable for the much discussed zone of destruction, in spite of the splash that is made on impact, and in spite of the vacuum following the bullet which sucks hair, clothing, etc., into or through the body. If it were true that the forward motion set up the destroying vibrations, then it would appear that the somewhat slower, heavier, blunt bullets would be most destructive,—if the analogy between the splashes in the creek and the vibrations set up in the body held true. Believing as I do, that the analogy holds, it seems that another factor must enter in bullet wounds, and pictures that I recall of bullets in actual flight give food for speculation along lines heretofore slighted in the inquiries into the factors incorporated into moving bullets which determine the effects of those bullets on tissues.

Let us suppose that we have at hand a bullet balanced, tested by spinning, weighed out to the n th degree, calibrated all over, and, in fact, a bullet better made than any made today in every way. Also, suppose that for this particular bullet there is a particular barrel made more perfectly than any other has been made. All right. Under these conditions, everything else acting perfectly, we ought to have that bullet flying through the air and behaving "more perfectly" than any other bullet yet fired? Yet, dollars to dots it wouldn't. One single fact remains that tends to undo all the effort and care wrapped up in that bullet. As the bullet takes the rifling, it is irrational to expect that all lands will cut equal grooves in the jacket and offer equal friction since one groove will always tend to catch more quickly than others. As the bullet travels through the barrel this is accentuated just as in cutting the grooves in the barrel during manufacture the tool tends to cut and take hold better on one side than on another if more than one groove is cut at the one time.

So it would seem that the unequal friction during the journey through the rifle barrel will disturb the regular contour of the bullet and throw strains upon its body which will change the center of balance from what it originally had been. And what and where might be that center? Can it be represented by a line through the longitudinal axis or is it a single point? If it were a line then the bullet would necessarily fly perfectly and steadily and its

rotation would be impossible of demonstration by camera. However, in the photographs mentioned a while back, there is a blur both at the point and at the base of the bullet, although not noticeable at a point near the middle of the bullet. Thus, the center of rotation is a point and not a line.

Liken the bullet in flight to a spinning top. Regardless of the perfection of balance of the top, a slowly spinning one describes circles with its point,—the circles decreasing to a certain point with increase in speed of spinning. Perhaps, if a top were perfectly balanced and spun, its point would not move in a circle of even microscopic dimensions, but such balance is not attainable in bullets fired from rifled barrels. Furthermore, if one end of a top is held or touched the circle in which the other end is traveling is instantly increased. It is probable then, if we have been correct so far, that there is a similar occurrence when a bullet meets an obstacle. That is, its base will begin to revolve in circles spirally increasing in diameter as the point meets increasing resistance. These circles may conceivably increase to such an extent that if a plane of less resistance is met at the right moment and at the right angle the bullet will cease to travel point first and will be sent tumbling end over end until its energy is spent. So it seems that the center of rotation changes toward the point depending upon the resistance met by the point; and, again, it may be shifted back to near the middle and change the rotation into an end over end tumbling if the centrifugal force of the revolving base acts in conjunction with the force exerted by deflecting planes of resisting tissues at the proper moment.

Have you ever seen a high speed drill suddenly go off center and noticed the result of its action before it broke? If that drill happened to be traveling through soft material you did, because that material flew all over everybody near; and in place of a neat hole being drilled, there was a jagged crater and general muss, wasn't there? I can't help but conclude that high velocity bullets act in a like manner for the reasons already given in the forming of the cone of destruction about their paths. This destructiveness is therefore dependent mostly upon the rate of revolutions per minute, although this of course is an expression of the speed of the bullets through the rifling of a given twist.

Lastly, the excessive rotation rate of hi-vel bullet will cause an explosion of the bullet when it meets a body, not because of an annealed jacket or liquefied lead core, but because of the terrific strain put upon the jacket when the point abruptly meets a force with the base unhampered as yet. Any weakening,

(Continued on page 14)

THE story of African hunting has been told so often that it needs no retelling, certainly not from one who has had only my own limited experience, though I did have the good fortune to meet with that most characteristic and perhaps most sought after and talked of beast, the lion, where many better men have spent months of time and much money without even bringing one to bag. But I may be able to offer a few suggestions which will make the path easier for those good American riflemen who will year by year go in larger numbers to this really great "Happy Hunting Ground." It is solely with this idea in mind that I comply with the request of the Editor to prepare some notes for the magazine to which so many of my sporting countrymen turn, not only for information and entertainment, but for counsel and advice in all matters relating to the use of the rifle on the range or in the field.

You will take many useless things to Africa, as we all do, but there is one thing I strongly urge you to leave behind—that is, your prejudices. The man who goes over to this new little colony, so full of his own viewpoint on all matters that he ignores that which he finds established about him, not only misses much himself and makes his own path harder, but more important still, makes harder the path of all of his countrymen who follow him. Each of us carries, in a sense, the prestige of our country as we go abroad, and as we bear ourselves well or ill among these strangers we enhance or diminish that prestige. We are spotted at once as Americans in the ship's company on the long journey from England or France to Kenya Colony (the old British East Africa). Our manners, our customs, or qualities of social intercourse all vary slightly from those of even our British cousins, and in our own conduct confirm or modify the preconceived ideas they hold of what is "American." You may, as we were, happen to be thrown with colonial officials with whom you will either come in official contact later on or who carry with them for the benefit of those whom you will meet, an estimate of your worth, and there is no country where that estimate may be more damning or more helpful than in Kenya, where among the white population of 10,000, a great number are known to one another and all are bound together by mutual interests.

Strangers, too, are always "news" in a small community, therefore, your doings, your reputation, often travel far in advance of you, effecting sometimes your plans and usually, for I have a high opinion on the whole of my fellow countrymen, making the way pleasant. I regret to say that this is not always the case, however, as some of our people, or at least so labeled, have left behind them very unpleasant impressions and created prej-

udices that affect us all. Men who are unsportsmanlike in the killing or photographing of game, men who attempt to circumvent the law, men who leave behind them a trail of unpaid debts, men who endeavor to "put something over" on officials, not only get themselves disliked but they breed a bad opinion of us all that must be lived down by each of us who follow them.

Personally, we had only the most pleasant of experiences and the officials we met were of a type of which any country might be proud, for they were without exception gentlemen and sportsmen. We came to know a number going out on the Union Castle Line "S. S. Norman," and they were a fine, clean, hand-picked lot; keen on their jobs, and wrapped up in their work, carrying no "side" or "swank," as they term it—men who took you at your best valuation, were friendly and helpful.

Treat the Colonial official squarely out in Kenya, play the game, and he treats you squarely and will go a long way out of his way to make your shoot successful. He is usually a sportsman himself, and if he likes you, will do everything possible to see that you have a good safari, find the game and get good trophies and if you are "right" he has a better opinion of Americans in general ever after. Since I had received the impression to the contrary from some sources, I put the question direct to Sir Robert Coryndon—the new and very able young Governor of Kenya Colony—"Are American sportsmen welcome in Kenya?" His reply was most emphatic, "Indeed you are most welcome. We hope you will enjoy your experience with us and take away a real interest in the country;" and later he said, "I wish we had more of your fine

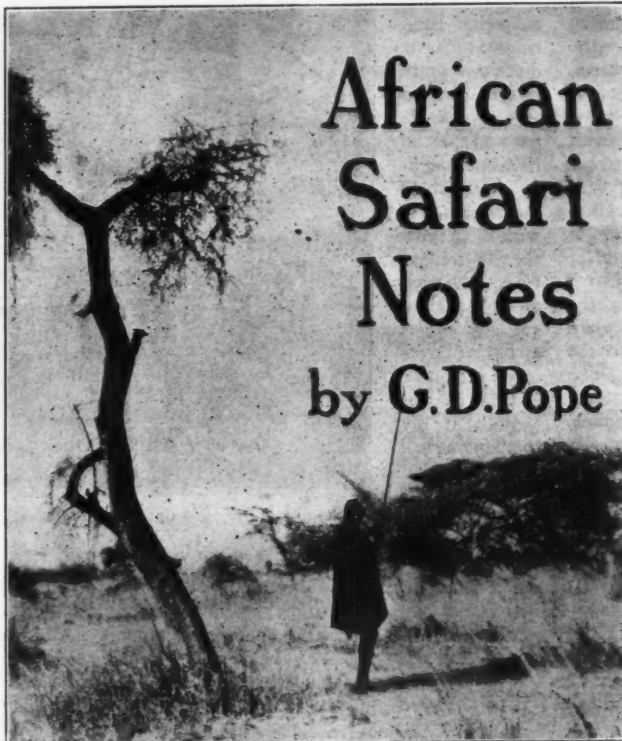
young Americans with us—the kind of men who have developed your own country. I wish they would come out here, throw their lot in with us in this wonderful new country; put their energy, their ideas, their money into it. It would be a fine thing for us and fine for them, for we have a great future."

GETTING to Africa is only a matter of a month's travel by boat, with all the comfort and convenience which modern transportation affords the traveler, and agents of the trans-Atlantic lines—the Union Castle Line or the Messageries Maritimes—sailing to Mombasa from London and Marseilles respectively—will supply data as to sailings, accommodations and costs.

Two men going together and sharing a cabin can reserve a first-class passage from New York to Southampton at from \$250 up for each man. From London to Mombasa the first-class fare is ninety pounds each for two people sharing a cabin together. The customary tips to stewards will add perhaps ten or fifteen dollars for the Atlantic voyage, and twenty or thirty dollars for your cabin, table, deck and bath stewards on the longer journey if these men are, as is usual, attentive to your comforts.

No one gave me any advice as to suitable clothing for the eighteen or twenty day voyage through the warm seas, and therefore I had to experiment, but as a suitable kit adds to one's comfort under the novel conditions of this trip, here are some suggestions. First of all, note that neither on the French nor British boats is there anything like a real laundry. Your steward can usually find a sailor who will, for a consideration, rough launder your underclothes and soft shirts, but there is even then no ironing done. Some of the women with small children I saw using a self-heating small iron on both their own light things and those of the children, but the practice is, I believe, discouraged, if not forbidden on account of fire risk.

In the season we journeyed on the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. It is pretty warm, and may be more than that; an occasional death among stewards and stokers, caused by heat, is not unknown, especially if the ship runs before a following wind; so that even for the idle passenger, tropical clothing—white drill or light flannels—is most desirable. In London one can pick up, ready made, three or four suits, and have them altered to fit. Most of the young Englishmen also had loose gray flannel trousers and a couple of pairs of white ones; sport shirts with open collars, highly suitable for the numerous deck sports, were also worn a great deal. They use these appropriately with unlined, blue flannel blazers with brass buttons. These latter also are to be had ready made in London at Harrods, Selfridges, or Burberrys, or other places, and are



African Safari Notes

by G.D. Pope

most comfortable for sitting about in during the long hours in deck chairs. They have the quality enjoyed by flannel of being both warm, when one is at rest, and cool when one is walking the deck for exercise. Rubber-soled white shoes of buck are commonly used with flannels, and canvas sneakers for deck tennis or games, where one is soon drenched with perspiration which would ruin the buckskin shoe. White socks of cotton or wool are in common use with white footgear and add at least to the appearance of coolness. Dressing for dinner is the universal custom on the British boats. The men blossom out in white mess jackets with the black trousers, in the evenings after one reaches Port Said. These can be had in London or at Simon Arts Shop in Port Said. Two or three will be enough, and they only cost about 30 shillings. If purchased in London, they can of course be made to measure and fitted. With them, a wide sash of dark blue silk around the waist, the ends tucked in, takes the place of a waistcoat and adds much to one's coolness and comfort. Be sure to carry a good supply of soft-bosomed dress shirts—with a few stiff ones—and especially collars, for there is no laundry there, unless you use the Van Heusen soft collar which is a godsend in the tropics.

An old light colored felt hat whose brim can be turned down to shade the eyes is very comfortable when sitting on deck, and is also useful to wear in camp in the late afternoon or evening to rest one's head from the *tope* or sun helmet of the day, and though that article does not come strictly under the head of "clothing for the voyage," just a word about it. There is always an argument as to the merits of cork versus pith and the general advice is to take the former, which will not melt in the rains. Our own experience of a short safari in a season when there was no rain—September and October—made us all decide that our choice for a second trip at a similar time—and it is perhaps the finest time of all the year for a modern safari, using motor transport—would settle on the pith. They can be had in wide shady brims which give one good protection from the powerful white sunlight, and especially so in shooting. They are undeniably cooler and lighter in weight, and no matter how the midday sun beats down upon your shoulders, you do not feel it on top of your head as you do through cork; and accustomed as I am to the light and heat of the southwest and border country, I was aware of this sun pressure, though it in no way affected me. Oulton and Lucy, our white hunters, I noticed both wore the pith helmet, as did all the men I met who lived up country.

Remember that Nairobi has cool evenings owing to its altitude of over 5,000 feet and as one goes to the excellent clubs or private houses to dinner he needs his dinner jacket and a fairly warm light overcoat.

ALLOWING thirty days from New York to Nairobi, the capital of Kenya Colony, will give you time for two or three days in London to examine and try your big rifles if you have ordered them in advance from Holland, Rigby, Westley Richards, Bland, Purdy, or Lang, —to name only a few. If you have picked up

a second-hand rifle—as it is quite safe to do if obtained from reliable people who have thoroughly overhauled them—you will want to give them a trial at the shooting grounds, and get any minor alterations made before leaving England.

Both of my companions had through correspondence secured at about ninety pounds each slightly-used Holland & Holland doubles, one a 500/450 and the other a 500/465, both first-grade, with beautifully engraved lock plates, etc., and especially selected wood in the stocks, one—the .450—being an ejector.

The British designate their calibers in thousandths of an inch, instead of hundredths as with us. Many of the older sizes of black powder cartridges have been slightly modified for Cordite powder, particularly by necking down the older black powder cartridge cases to give a Cordite cartridge with plenty of powder capacity. This .500-.450 means that the old .500 black powder case has been necked down to take a .450 bullet of 480 grains weight.

The .465 is merely an enlargement of the .450 to overcome the difficulty presented by the law, which forbids the importation of cartridge of .450 caliber into India, Uganda and the Sudan. Incidentally, the only reason I ever heard given for not offering the sportsman an arm to take the now nearly standard and universally obtainable .470 is the desire for singularity, from which the British gun-makers suffer quite as much as do the manufacturers of our own country who have presented us with such a variety of .30, .32, and .45 cartridges and rifles to take them, though time has long since winnowed the wheat from the chaff and established their relative merits. With them, as with us, elimination and standardization would at this stage, where ballistic values are pretty thoroughly settled, make possible the concentration of production on a few really good cartridges with consequent economies which would follow both for the manufacturer and the sportsman.

However, having tried and purchased your doubles and secured the permit to ship them out of England, you have, with your sporting Springfield, your battery, unless you decide, as I did, that there would be occasions when one wanted to hunt as nearly alone as one is likely to be able to in Africa, and have in your own hands an arm capable of killing buck at three hundred yards and coping with a crusty old rhino who, weakened from his



Government House, Nairobi, Kenya

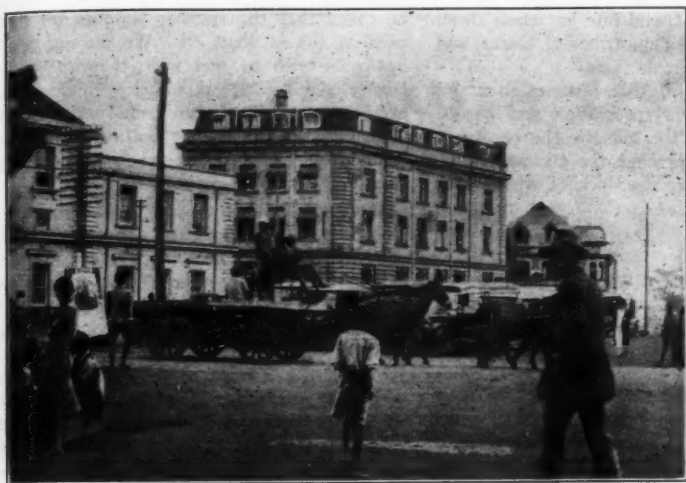
noonday, afternoon or morning nap, comes pounding down on you, impelled by a combination of curiosity and temper.

After long deliberation over the merits of the various cartridges offered, I decided upon the .375 Holland Magnum Mauser-Action rifle, and had no reason to regret the choice. It proved very accurate and at very long ranges, with a flatness of trajectory which gave one the same confidence in one's ability to "reach" an animal out at four or five hundred yards, which is the Springfield's peculiar charm—to reach and anchor with a single shot.

The Hoffman Arms Company is now producing this rifle in this country, so it is available to American sportsmen without duty. Furthermore, one of the leading American cartridge companies is about to put on the market .375 Magnum cartridges loaded with American powders and bullets, another decided advantage to our sportsmen.

It so happened that I did not have mine with me when my rhino met his fate, but old hunters with whom I came in contact assured me that it would drill the big "tanks" almost from end to end or drive its special steel-jacketed, .300-grain solids clear through an elephant's head—that it was, in short, a "pukka gun" and quite good enough to go up against anything. This, of course, must not be taken as meaning it is the equal of a double of the "heavies"—.450, .465, and .577—which are in a class by themselves as insurance policies when dealing with big game.

The .350 Rigby also has a very high reputation among the Africans and is, out there, I suppose on the whole the most popular arm in use among the middle heavies in the "all-around gun" class. Second to it, and dropping down to the small-bore class is the .318 Westley Richards, with its .250-grain bullet of very unusual killing power, and many good men swear by it even to elephant, but when pressed, admit that the biggest double you can handle is not too big when these old behemoths turn "kale" or wrathful. Too many good men have been killed by elephant—even recently—with the best Cordite in



View in Nairobi taken from New Stanley Hotel Porch

their hands, to doubt that there are times when the best, simplest and heaviest bolt hurlers which man has devised are none too good before the fury of charging tons of animal vitality.

The average American going into the English gun shops will be surprised at the small quarters, even though it be evident that rents are high on Bond Street, and at the limited number of rifles offered for his inspection. In dealing with the makers he will realize, too, that they take themselves very seriously, and though they show courtesy to the stranger who comes in with his ideas and criticisms, they are quite well content with their own, and have great faith in those designs and practices which have stood the test of time while in the hands of that army of British sportsmen who have penetrated or opened up most of the big-game fields of the world for several generations.

Our riflemen, I think, know more of ballistics generally than do their English cousins, but the latter have undoubtedly enjoyed more opportunities to observe the effect of various types of ammunition on big and dangerous game, so he has a kind of practical knowledge which is well worth consideration. Personally, after meeting quite a large number of sportsmen and settlers and professional hunters in my short stay in Africa—and among them, several Americans who now live in the country and enjoy what is for us the advantage of our point of view—I am quite prepared to accept their verdict on armament for the game out there, especially as it happens to coincide with the conclusions I have drawn from my own brief but interesting experience.

On my next trip—to use the phrase with which every American I know unconsciously opens his remarks on this subject—I will again use the Springfield or the seven millimeter Mauser with its super high velocity bullet for small game; a middle or all-around arm of from thirty-five to forty caliber; and a well-balanced but heavy, double of .470 or .577 caliber; with a good American, medium-priced shotgun of twelve gauge, full and medium choke, with a box or two of heavy

of whom I have heard out there. Therefore a pistol—probably the .38 Colt's Auto. or the Luger 9M, as the maximum penetration is the desired quality, and as a handgun obviously can carry a real knockout punch for a four-hundred-pound lion. An American who has killed a great many lion—he is credited with fifty on a recent trip—has experimented with our .45 Colt Automatic, and considers it lacking in penetration, and advocates returning for this use to the .38 Colt or 9M Luger.

THE Mediterranean Sea trip is generally pleasant, and the heat of the Red Sea, which bears a bad name, is no worse than sweltering days in July at home, especially for those who have no duties and can lie quietly in deck chairs under the protecting cover of the decks, passing the long midday hours with reading or visiting. Upon all English boats, deck sports are an institution. We had deck tennis, where the players toss and return a rope ring with great speed and dexterity over a five-foot net. Quoits was always going on, and occasionally cricket played behind nettings set up aft. All this provides methods for keeping fit for the hard work of Safari hunting. It was interesting to see the stewards and young sailors when off duty going in for deck tennis when no passengers are using the courts in the early morning or late afternoon.

The stops at Port Said, Port Soudan, and Aden introduce one to the East and to Africa. For the first time one sees the vivid contrast of black skin and white flowing robes; sees that cloth of many hues and patterns may, when knotted about the head, become good substitutes for hats. Boat shapes, methods of transport, the coaling by hand with scores of dark-skinned men carrying baskets on their sooty bare backs, walking up a timber from the great scows alongside, like a never-ending stream of ants, all speak of the new world whose various and multiple tongues salute the ear in a babble of sound.

If you like to flavor your travel with a dash of possible adventure, you can get a thrill by considering what would happen if something went wrong somewhere or somehow and the smooth-running orderly vessel of 9,000 tons,

buck loads for close work on leopard. Yes, I would take a pistol, too. A great many men pooh! pooh! the idea and say that it is a nuisance, but it is extremely useful in finishing off wounded game; one can shoot guinea fowl out of the trees with it; and it has in a tight corner saved the lives of two or three men

with her 150 first class passengers, 200 second class, and crew complement of 150 went drifting westward and heaved up against the Somaliland shore line. You may not see that rocky, sterile and uninviting coast, for the British boats keep well offshore; though returning on a French boat we saw something of it, and I am told that in the pre-war days the Germans laid their course quite close to it.

Leaning on the broad teakwood rail, looking across the smiling blue water of the Indian Ocean, one sees treeless reaches of an ochre yellow landscape, low ranges of true Arizonian aridity of aspect which bespeak a hardy folk, if any, to roam its wastes—a lean and wiry people of chocolate hue, with fine Caucasian features, spirited bearing, and carrying with pride not only long graceful spears but good Mauser rifles and a childish delight in using both.

Of course you know your boat isn't going wrong and leave her carefully scheduled track to plunge you into a movie scenario any more than the Sunset Limited is going to dump you out on the inhospitable sands of the waterless Yuma desert, but when your fellow traveler tells you a yarn of what is said to have happened to the people on a tidy, well-ordered British boat, alleged to have gone on the rocks years ago, you begin to use your imagination and consider that it will be pleasant to see the loom of the coast nearer to Mombasa, where British cruisers have a way of nosing into out of the way spots just to see if all is going well, as the policeman turns his flashlight into dark alleys.

Abyssinia, lying inland 150 miles, cut off from the coast by Italian Somaliland, is a wonderful country. I met two Americans who had run up from Jabuti to Abis-Aba over the dinky little French railroad which transports you in a leisurely fashion across some undeniable desert up to the capital. Here I visited with the charming and cultured Minister of Foreign Affairs, or whatever his title is, and with European officials which are stationed there, it is said, mainly to watch one another.

Well, my countrymen were keen on coming down overland into Kenya, a two or three month's trip, and were advised by local white men that it was quite feasible and most interesting, though they admitted that there was always the possibility of trouble near the border from the roaming bands of "irregulars"—wandering ruffians, who dodge in and out between the Abyssinian troops who normally preserve law and order on their side of the fence, and the little British patrols which keep an eye on things in this debatable land which marches with the borders of the Northern Frontier District. Those whom we met who had dwelt up in this dessicated district all agreed that it was reasonably safe to travel with a large party through the borderland and up into the settled interior of Abyssinia, but other people told us that it was a sporting adventure where the stake might range from getting your throat cut down to supplying the native with a portion of your anatomy to satisfy his taste for quaint decoration on his bridle reins.

Years ago in the days of Menelik's rule, a

number of British sportsmen, beginning with Sir Samuel Baker, hunted in Abyssinia and came on through. Then, elephant poachers had great picking on its borders, but at present it is not feasible in any ordinary sense, and incidentally means crossing some very bad waterless country, on the southern border, in which, curiously enough, there are reported to be some very exceptional rhino still seen. Sergeant Thorn of the Motor Transport K. A. R., who accompanied Colonel Llewellyn, in charge of the Northern Frontier District, on his last tour of inspection of this district, reported having seen an old rhino with a horn as long as a service rifle, up in the vicinity of Moyale, and the Colonel told me that there were undoubtedly some extraordinary old beasts up that way, but that the difficulties of motor travel and the necessary restrictions surrounding expeditions into such country would protect them for a long time to come.

But we are still steaming south—five days from Port Said to Aden.

Five days will take one into the vast blue of the Indian Ocean, which Kipling's soldier says, "sits and smiles and is so blooming blue." But we broke all precedent by running into a regular Atlantic gale. It began as we passed the craggy heights of Cape Guardafui, from where, by the way, the Crouching Lion—a great hill of sand and stone—looks toward Europe with true leonine steadfastness and similitude, and ended the day as we approached the low lying shores, with the dim hills beyond which are the setting for the most welcome green of Mombasa.

An old traveler said that one's first introduction to the Tropics should come after a long ocean voyage, when the senses are weary of the unending blue of sea and sky, and the confinement of life on a vessel, and perhaps this does brighten the beauty of Mombasa as the steamer winds through charming narrow river channels to its anchorage at Killindini. The green of waving palm and banana trees, the roofs of the white walled, lemon-colored houses that emerge above the verdant mass; the sea curling in foam along the low, rocky shores, the green slopes covered with the great bodied and grotesquely beautiful baobab tree—all speak of land; land which is desirable, land which reaches back behind the mounting

distant hills to that wild interior where dwell a few white men, endless tribes of blacks, and millions of wild animals.

As the anchor drops, one comes to earth, is drawn back from speculation and mental exploration across the hills by the necessary details of passing through the customs. The building stands near the dock at which your small boat has landed you and your mountain of bags and boxes, and as you gladly enter the building's shade to escape the dazzling light and heat of your first real exposure to the African sun, you notice immediately that no one removes his headgear, and your new brown topie, purchased at the all-providing shop of Simon Arts at Suez begins to acquire the first installment of that respect and appreciation which will grow steadily during your sojourn in Africa. When your turn comes at last to submit your list of dutiable articles, you will find the official reasonable and, as far as his harassed nerves may have survived the long line of human problems before you, courteous.

Your cameras and binoculars are exempt; your clothing and ordinary camp equipment also; and it is on your guns and ammunition that he will concentrate. The rifles will be valued fairly, with due consideration for use—for new articles your receipted bills will be accepted as evidence of value. Duty on rifles and pistols is 20%, but having paid that, you can, upon application, secure a re-importation permit, which will enable you to bring them back into this country over a reasonable period of time without further duty.

The agent of Safariland Ltd. was of great help to us in passing through the tangles of customs, etc., digging up the precious ammunition boxes which, not having been labeled "Special" were stowed somewhere in the bottom of the hold and had to follow us; and in consequence delaying our departure from Nairobi nearly a week. He had also secured our accommodations on the train, a large and roomy compartment with four berths and plenty of room for hand luggage. These berths consist of comfortable long leather seats going lengthwise of the train, and above them, folded up, leather-covered frames like a canvas cot, hinged to the side walls and held when in use by chains from the car roof. A small wash-room adjoined the compartment; but it should

be noted that the traveler supplies his own bedding, towels, soap, etc. We had our camp bed rolls with us and were therefore thoroughly comfortable, prepared with adequate bedding for the change from the summer heat at the coast to the autumn chill of the uplands which often give the newcomer a chilly night's ride.

Hassan, who was our first tentboy and general major domo among the personal servants, one of the new, but much appreciated features of safari life, had been sent down to meet us at Mombasa, and he generally took charge of our affairs, made up beds, repacking in the morning, cleaning out our compartment, etc. He traveled in a third class compartment with other personal "boys" right behind us and as we stopped at lunch stations, came to us and watched our belongings while we were in the eating houses alongside the tracks. Speaking English, cheerful, obliging and well trained, he was a treasure and we became much attached to him during the ensuing weeks.

Of the trip up, so much could be written that I will not attempt it, but Africa unfolds before our advance. Heavy green of palm groves and waving banana trees; little clearings and native huts of sun dried grass; dark men and women in cloaks or kilts of skin and cloth, youths, blanket on shoulder, leaning gracefully on their spears to watch the strange white men at the stations; hills rolling out to plain; plains and distant outcropping hills; and night descending suddenly.

Through our windows we long watched that deep, silent, night landscape, full of mystery and vague dread, then settled to sleep at last in our camp blankets, waking in the morning to glorious sunlight on vast reaches of yellow, scrub-dotted, grass plains. Herds of game grazing peacefully in the distance; a black cock ostrich going off at a slow gallop not a hundred yards from us—we knew we had arrived in Africa. All morning with windows opened wide we watched for new species of game and the changing scene, hoping always to see the king of beasts, the lion, go trotting across the velt from some kill. But this was too much to expect and was reserved for a later time when we were more seasoned and could take part in the picture.



Observations from the Small-bore Range

By R. H. McGarity



PROBABLY no other class of shooting can claim such a wide variation of individual followers and equipment as the Small-bore game, and undoubtedly no better place exists at which to observe the results of this variance as well as at the National Matches.

Only a few short years ago practically all men except the specialized small-bore shooters looked upon the miniature rifle as a mere toy and child's play to use one. How things have changed! Prior to 1919 the .22 caliber was not considered of enough importance to be worthy of a place at the National Matches, and it was only by the concerted and unceasing efforts of a few of the old timers, who played with the game along with the big-bore and knew its real importance, that it was finally given a place on the programs and allotted space on the range which that year was mostly submerged. Since that start as a part of the National Program it has made rapid strides to the front and is now considered of vital importance.

During the past four years the percentage of military shots who have taken to the .22 caliber game proves quite conclusively that they have at last come to the realization of the training that it affords them for the long range game, and that after all no better sport exists than a real .22 caliber match. Everyone of those fellows will tell you that it did not take him long to realize that it is in fact a harder game than the one they had been playing and requires much harder holding and certainly much more careful doping of conditions at the longer ranger. If you will take the trouble to run down the list of men who have won or consistently placed near the top in the famous old established N. R. A. and National Matches, I am quite sure that you will recognize the names of many small-bore riflemen in most every instance. To watch the turn out on the Small-Bore range at Camp Perry last September on Sundays, when the .30 caliber ranges were closed, by service men as plenty as well as Civilians was pretty conclusive evidence that the Service men are coming into a realization of what they have been missing for years past. Undoubtedly the birth of the new .22 Springfield has aided materially in the awakening of the Service

men. Now that they have started nothing will stop them, but it is worthy of note that none of those fellows won any of the Individual Matches or run away with places on the International Small-Bore team. This ought to convince the doubting minds that the Small-bore is a classy game all by its self.

When the matches of the Eastern Small-Bore Association held under the auspices of the New Jersey State Rifle Association and sanctioned by the N. R. A. were established in 1922 there came into being the first real interstate exclusively Small-Bore meet that the U. S. has ever tried. Individuals and teams from all of the Eastern Seaboard States as far south as and including the District of Columbia were in attendance at this first four-day shoot which was a decided success.

In 1923 it proved that the five-day shoot was even a more pronounced success than the preceding year and was so managed that it paid all of its own expense for range operation without imposing a burden on the competitors. At their shoot bulletins are posted within two hours after the close of every match and each day the winners are called to the porch of the club house after supper and presented with their merchandise prizes or medals in the presence of the gang. This feature is certainly appreciated by the competitors for to win a match and then be presented with the spoils in the presence of those he defeated certainly carries more pleasure and thrills than to get it by mail six months later.

The officials in charge of those matches are certainly deserving of all credit given them for making this feature possible. The Small-Bore shooter is often quite temperamental and noted as being the most radical of all of the powder burning fraternity. That clan that heeds the call of the wild and assembles on the Jersey Coast the first part of July each year certainly has the world beat when it comes to high class performance alibis, freak equipment and radical ideas. However, from these wild ideas and differences of opinion come all advances in the game and its equipment. We have been introduced to Small-Bore rifles ranging from the skeleton frame stock variety to the miniature pressure barrel weapons and it is a safe bet to say that more than fifty per cent of the

rifles used at any of the larger shoots are in the hybrid class, for as before mentioned the Small-Bore shooter is seldom satisfied with any equipment just as manufactured. Experience proves to us that most of the alterations are of material aid to the shooter and it is by reason of these variations of his equipment that he is able to save those few points which are so necessary to place him at the top of the list.

Our advice to any shooter is to alter his equipment to suit his own proven ideas or needs whenever the conditions of the match will allow, and (fortunately the small-bore game has few restrictions in that respect), and then leave it alone. Every year I see too many men who are changing their equipment or some part of it from day to day during the period of the National Shoot, and those fellows seldom fare nearly so well as the man who comes out there all set to his gun and full of confidence in what he can do with it. It is really surprising how many men go onto the range who do not know the elevation of their own guns for each range and the changes necessary from one range to another. There is no excuse for such conditions.

The longer I stay in the game and the more I observe the performance of men on the range the more I am convinced that psychology plays an all-important part in a man's performance. Did you ever watch the fellow perform who had a hunch that the time was at hand to shoot the winning score. If he didn't win he was certainly near the top of the list. Most every shooter will do or not do certain things for fear it will spoil his luck and strange to say that for him to violate one of those ideas, or whatever you choose to call them, means that his performance for that match is under par. How nice it would be if every man could be sent onto the line fully satisfied and full of confidence. Few men perform well when mad and a bad start is usually detrimental; however, some of the men with full control of their nerve can finish remarkably strong in the face of any adversities. The men who have trained their powers of concentration are the ones that always finish well, for after all concentration is the greatest factor in close shooting. I know men who are of a nervous disposition

and far from steady of hand, yet when they take a rifle and step onto the range few can follow their pace, simply because they have learned how to concentrate. Some men talk too much on the range and they not only handicap themselves but annoy others, even sometimes to the point of being a nuisance. Most of the shooting fraternity are sports of the first water and men with whom it is a pleasure to associate, both on and off of the range; but, as much as I regret to say it, there are a few that should never be permitted on a range when any one else is present. Those fellows never have any regard to range rules and the rights and safety of others. Instances are well known where some fellows target to ruin his score and others are so indifferent and careless as to be unsafe to have around. I saw two fellows step on the range at Camp Perry last summer and without authority from anyone start firing at a pair of targets on the fifty-yard frame, which proved to be completed record targets of a man who had retired back of the line. It is very gratifying to know that there are only a few men who are so thoughtless or careless as to do such things.

Every seasoned shooter has his particular style of position and let-off, but knowing how vitally important both of these are it is quite evident that many shooters could greatly improve their scores by giving more attention to these factors. Some hold too hard and are under a constant strain which is bound to tell in a long match. It is not difficult to learn to relax all the muscles except those that directly control the trigger after correct position and hold is attained, then in a short while the finger will sort of automatically act at the critical instant and that fellow isn't troubled by jerked or widely pulled shots. The rules established for slow fire in Small-Bore shooting set a limit of one minute per shot which is ample, however some fellows invariably run over the limit, but seldom have anything to show for it. My own experience along with that of other men who have made a study of the game indicates that the best course to pursue, once you have properly corrected the center of impact on the target is to fire at regular intervals and keep them going once you get started. Many of my best ten-shot scores have been shot in approximately five minutes and I find that grouping is always closer when I can get things working under these conditions.

Improvements in guns, ammunition and the performance of the individual shooter certainly stirred up many arguments, especially over fifty-yard targets which in many cases showed only five to six shot holes for a ten-shot string. The range officials at Camp Perry were not long in deciding that it would not do to shoot more than five shots on each fifty-yard target which supplied a remedy for the scoring of close group targets. Next year we are promised a fifty-yard target with five bulls on each card and then will be required to fire only two shots on each bull which should solve the scoring difficulties to the satisfaction of all.

It is quite noticeable that the female attendance at the matches is increasing from year to year and the fine showing made by the girls team from the District of Columbia at Camp Perry this year is worthy of note. We all agree that shooting is a fine sport so why should not our wives and sisters be as much interested as ourselves. Whenever a woman can outshoot me I will be the first one to congratulate her, and it is quite evident that their interest in the game will have a very important influence on its promotion, publicity and the rising generation who are to follow the trail blazed for them.

Another great addition to the Small-Bore game was the presentation of so many handsome and appropriate trophies for annual competition at the National Matches. I am quite sure that the Small-bore fraternity extends a vote of appreciation and thanks to those responsible for the donations. The N. R. A. in turn followed with another forward step in presenting individual medals to go to the yearly winners of those trophies, which bear a reproduction of the trophy which it represents.

The methods of range operation were considerably improved the past season and noticeably speeded up. This also shows a move by way of needed improvement. We are promised a well planned and conveniently located Small-Bore range at Camp Perry, Ohio, for the next National Meet, which will insure the game a highly important place in the big program and which will materially add to the fast increasing popularity of the .22 caliber sport. The establishment of the East, West Match for the team championship of the U. S. brought into reality last September a match long anticipated and discussed and the men who shot in that first match will long remember the beautiful uphill fight that it was when the East was finally out shot by that close, grouping team from the West. That match is undoubtedly here to stay and should prove a hard fought contest every year.

In commenting on the season's records the remarkable work done by the U. S. International Small-Bore team in the famous old DeWar Match cannot go by without comment. Growing interest in this match is well proven by the fact that close to ninety men shot in the tryouts for places on the team. The final elimination shoot developed a team score averaging nearly four points per man above the former, team records which clearly showed the selection of a wonderful team and the prediction for a sure win on the following day. The match was shot in record time, in fact about two hours less time was consumed than in former matches owing to the fact that all the team members were on the line at one time and shot under the same conditions. Another remarkable thing is the fact that out of the 800 shots fired by the team in the match, every one was on the right target and there was no mix up of any sort. When the smoke had drifted away and results were chalked on the big score board it was found that the U. S. Team had won by a margin of 76 points over

England, the nearest competitor, established a new world's record of 7748 points, which is thirteen points above the former record, with an average of 387.4 per man. It is safe to say that with the development of equipment and shooters this record will not stand very long but the U. S. cannot dare to neglect in any way the preparation necessary for this team in the future or we will some day awaken to the sad fact that the DeWar Trophy has left its long resting place and is on its way back to its original home.

It appears that there is one thing that might be given a little careful thought by those who have charge of arranging out-door small-bore programs and that is the matter of fouling shots. You Small-Bore shooters well know that it is almost impossible to hope to hit into your group by entering a match with a clean cold gun. Invariably that first shot is going far wide of the second. Just let the range officer ask the men on the line if they want fouling shots and the chorus of ayes will convince you that he only wasted words in asking. At the National Matches warning shots have only been allowed in team matches and then over the targets. That does not do the shooter any good when he has to enter an individual match cold. I have listened to a lot of discussion and read more of it about this subject, but the facts are that the .30 caliber and the .22 are not just the same even though it is true that both settled down much better after a few shots. At the longer ranges nearly all of the .30 caliber matches allow two sighters which ordinarily will suffice to warm up the gun and give the shooter some idea of corrections necessary. None of the 50- and 100-yard matches provide for any warning shots and its not at all uncommon to have the first shot from a cold gun go out for an eight and then have the next one go in for a ten. The fellow that gets that eight is out of the running. Yet he maybe a far better shot than the fellow that lucks in on the first one. How is this matter to be adjusted to the satisfaction of the gang? At Sea Girt the inlet at the end of the firing line furnishes a very convenient and safe place for the dumping warmers. Firing over the targets is not always safe and certainly could not be allowed when other scores are being shot along the line. What then is the remedy? The fouling pit was one day part of the range equipment so why not again? It would certainly give all a chance to foul as much as they choose without danger or annoyance to others and also serve to keep some of the more careless and thoughtless individuals from firing fouling shots through the tent floors in camp because they know they will not be permitted to do so on the range.

In summing up the results of the past season, the class of the matches and remarkable records made are such a high quality that it appears that the future cannot offer very much in advance of past performances, but 1924 will undoubtedly give us much of greater feats of performance, more attractive programs and a correction of past shortcomings.

By Hoffman — of Cleveland

By J. R. Mattern

ANYONE who sums up the present stage of development of American firearms, particularly of American hunting rifles, brings to light an odd assortment of facts. The average American shooter swears by his factory-made gun. It is the best in the world, so he thinks. No over-seas gunmaker has either products or ideas worth importing, to his mind, for do not rifles from our American factories "shoot closer than he can hold?" and are they not "powerful enough for any American game?"

At the same time anything new in the way of a gun is given an extravagant welcome.

Developments in design and manufacture of good firearms in this country have taken definite and advanced form lately. Every shooter should get the story and understand the situation.

Few American factory-made rifles have been of poor quality. On the contrary, they are nearly all so good in design, dependability and calibers as to cause us to overlook the existence and desirability of the specially built arms. Under our pioneer conditions game has been easy to find and to kill, and the demand has been for any simple, reliable guns that were low in cost.

pretentious and low priced group, with exactly the same family traits. It did not afford its owner the decided superiority in performance he had a right to expect, and it seldom or never was a really high-class firearm in all that is implied by that term and by the expense and by the possibilities.

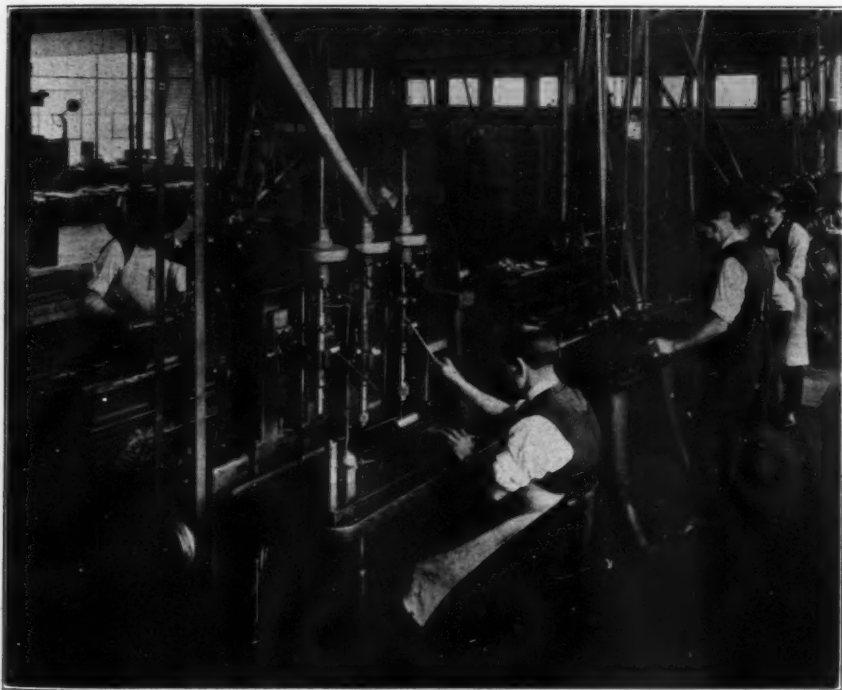
Several thousand high grade English and other foreign guns costing on the average more than two hundred and fifty dollars each have been imported into this country each year since the war. These good rifles are in no way related to the inferior arms dumped here recently by the Germans and others. They represent the awakening of more and more Americans to the limitations of our own factory-made guns,—represent also our growing grasp of what sort of firearms are actually adequate for various specific purposes.

Now, the man who buys a fine rifle or shotgun at such a price has not been exhibiting more money than brains. He has shown good sense. He wants the refinements which make his shooting a little more dependable; because he is tired trying to make up in personal concentration and training for small or great shortcomings in his gun. He has learned that, whether one realizes it or not while shooting, these shortcomings keep down the level of accuracy attained and of woods effectiveness. Mere "dog" is the last thing in the world that he is seeking or paying for. What he gets in the fine foreign or special rifle is substantially improved shooting, and it is worth all it costs.

Many an American sportsman with a deep and sincere faith in the products of New Haven, Utica and Ilion has suddenly awakened to the fact that among his row of rifles there was not one of quality. A little deeper digging into hunting conditions than usual, or extending of hunting interests beyond the hills at the back door, has shown the real need for better guns and better cartridges.

That situation forms the background for the latest turn in the development of American sporting and target guns. Back in 1910 little one- and two-man remodeling shops drew national discussion. They have multiplied in number and have increased their scope until we have now, in this country, for the first time, a few completely equipped plants devoted to the production of "tailor-made" guns exclusively, employing the most skilled workmanship obtainable, and applying the foremost technical features of the times through the medium of the best available materials.

An opportunity was presented the writer for investigating the plant of the Hoffman Arms Company of Cleveland, Ohio. This firm has been announced more conspicuously the country over, perhaps, than any other of its class. Its advertisements have presented certain items—Hoffman Bolt-Action Rifles of standard and special calibers, Left-handed Bolt-



One Section of Hoffman Arms Company's Plant Showing Tool Room Equipment

The magazines lately have been carrying dozens of discussions of high-grade European guns, and of specially built American guns of new calibers. The significance of the presence of these stories is not lost on thoughtful shooters whom the texts and slogans such as those mentioned above have not lulled into forgetfulness of progress.

The truth is that our American factory standard rifles, and shotguns too, while of unquestioned accuracy, do not always meet the needs of individual sportsmen intent upon a specialized purpose weapon.

And the further truth is that guns better suited to the needs of discriminating hunters and target shooters are available not only abroad, but of late months right here in the United States.

The American factories met this demand wonderfully, giving more of value than was called for—but the very excellence of their products has been an obstacle to the appreciation of fine firearms among us. The term "high grade" has unfortunately been applied here chiefly to guns with fancy engraving and selected wood, but with merely standard steel, rifling, receiver and lock workmanship and other features. Even our remodeled military rifles have fallen into this class as a rule, although a particular man usually could obtain a more exact piece of workmanship in one of them than in commercial sporting rifles available. The military design, of course, was superior to the sporting pattern.

The resulting so-called high class gun always, however, was a full sister of its less

Action Rifles, and the like—but in common with most readers and shooters, I did not know whether to expect a mere small remodeling shop, or a budding competitor of Winchester, Remington and Savage, turning out standardized guns of a new model.

What I did find was a compact little factory fully equipped to *manufacture* both rifles and shotguns from butt plate to front sight. It makes its own barrels, from an interesting steel of special analysis furnished for them by one of the big steel makers. A large stock of the rods were on hand. It makes its stocks from the finest imported walnut, of which I saw a pile there perhaps larger than any other single stock to be found this side of the Atlantic.

There were a dozen and a half people busy in this factory. Among them were experts formerly employed in every big American arms factory except one, and one man from Ross of Quebec. The entire managing staff had just returned from a European trip, where certain high-grade materials and components unobtainable in this country had been bought. The methods and products of the celebrated English and continental gun-makers had been studied. And let it be added that the men who did the studying are sportsmen accustomed for many years to using and appreciating the world's best firearms—now seeking detailed specifications and shop practices which might be applied in America.

There was a corner and a man or two given over to development of new features in guns—a Department of Design and Invention, it might be called. It has two or three new things, almost as revolutionary as the Left-handed Bolt-Action, almost ready for the public, besides numbers of less extensive innovations in sights, triggers and fittings. Perhaps this time is not too soon to mention that one of the major items is a Single Shot Rifle action, for all calibers, modeled after the Ballard but much improved.

All bluing and finishing of barrels, actions and parts is done in the plant by the Hoffman process. Heat treating is also done there. In short, the outstanding fact is that this plant is a gun factory, not a mere assembling or remodeling shop working on parts produced elsewhere.

And yet such is not the outstanding fact, after all. The English have a concise way of expressing what we are after when they say "By Purdy," or "By Jeffry" or mention some other well-known gun-maker who has built a Mauser or double or other rifle or shotgun. The maker is thus distinguished from the model or type of gun, and one maker may construct in his own quality way, any type or all types of guns which their customers request. The constant factor is the combination of high class materials and skilled workmanship, resulting not so much in new designs or models of gun, as in refinements on existing types or models.

A Hoffman rifle therefore is an American-built arm in which finest steels are used, in which the action is fitted by hand with watch-like precision, the sight equipment and the finish wholly individual to the customer,

the barrel bored, rifles tested and retested and guaranteed. Everything is individual; made to order. No stock models are produced.

A gun "By Hoffman" thus may be anything you fancy and are willing to pay for. It may be a sporting Springfield with special stock and special barrel of any dimensions. I saw the specifications of one such made for a man six feet and six inches tall. That Springfield had something like a 36-inch barrel and a 15-inch stock, and weighed ten or twelve pounds. You get the idea. The sky is the limit. Your gun "By Hoffman" may be a common Winchester, Savage, Remington or Krag all dolled up, or may be a something new you have thought up in the way of design, but never could get made before. The plant is there to serve you. Most likely, if you want a powerful bolt-action rifle, it will take the form of Hoffman-built barrel and stock on one of the splendid English Mauser ac-

to get from the "standardized" kind of arms plant.

A fixed rear peep sight, detachable, for high velocity rifles. A neat, desirable thing.

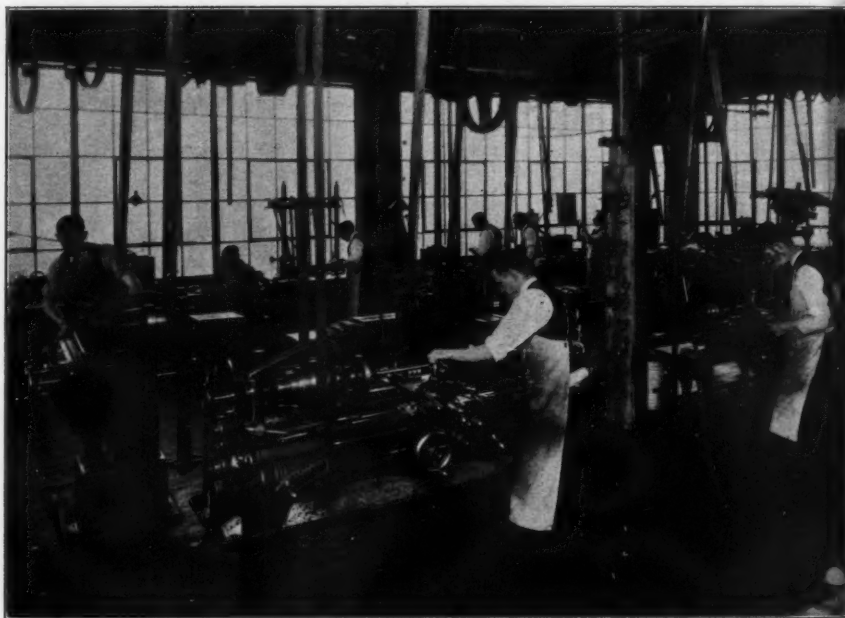
A front sight cover bored from tool steel, and secured in slots so neatly that it looks to be of one piece with the sight base. It snaps in place securely, but is easily removed.

A ramp front sight elevation, bored from solid tool steel and fitted permanently to the barrel. It adds to the appearance of the rifle, and its matted top slope prevents wild reflection to the eye.

A detachable sling swivel fitted to any gun; instantly loosened with the fingers, but stays in place. The neatest sling anchor seen.

Forearm tips of real buffalo horn, made in any shape and size, for any guns.

Pistol grip caps of horn or any metal, with any design, and with port if desired.



Another Section of the Hoffman Arms Company's Factory

tions. Or it may be a double rifle on an English action. Hoffman incidentally can save you the bother of getting these actions or any other yourself. They are kept there at the plant in a series of carefully locked cabinets, thousands and thousands of dollars worth of them.

American shooters have been forced to accept the standardized guns of our big factories for so long that this freedom in choice and fancy will be a distinct innovation. Many of us know how hard it has been, to get minor departures from standard, and that major departures have been impossible. Many small shops have been willing to furnish what customers desired, but lacked the equipment to make it. The Hoffman plant is both willing and able.

By the time this appears in print, a Hoffman catalogue may be issued. Here are some of the small things the Hoffman customer can obtain, which would be difficult or impossible

Howe cleaning funnel and Howe cleaning rod.

Double set triggers for Springfield rifle and for other rifles.

Barrel bands in any dimension, of any type.

As an example of special service rendered riflemen, the speeding up of the lock time of guns can be taken as typical, notably the speeding up of the Springfield lock time. This operation requires not only skillful work, but a knowledge of how and where the lock may be lightened without causing it to break in use. A lightened lock is a splendid help to good shooting, but unless the job is based on much experience, some of the parts will break.

The plant is already making high grade shotguns of several types. For instance, it has made a great many in 410-gauge—dainty little guns of real quality for people who want something better than the machine-made 410's offered by the trade. Twelve-, sixteen- and

twenty-gauge guns the equal of any it is possible to obtain abroad and made in every particular to a customer's individual requirements are offered. Elaborate facilities for determining proper stock dimensions are available to any customer who goes to the plant.

Single barrelled trap shotguns with solid ventilated rib, and three barrelled guns also are made. I believe that this coming summer will see Hoffman turning out Over and Under shotguns.

A certain American shooter had unfavorable luck in hunting moose in Canada last year, whereupon he called on the Hoffmans for a more effective rifle.

"I want the biggest rifle there is," he announced.

"I'll make whatever you want, no matter what that is," replied Mr. Hoffman. The result was a Bolt Action repeater, on the big English Mauser action, chambered for the 505

Then there are 35 Newton, 35 Whelen and 400 Whelen, 30 Newton and the regular 280 Ross of Canadian type, 6.5 mm., and a couple of different high-power 22 calibers. Of course the 25 calibers of different persuasions are made, including the 25 Special, or 30-1906 case necked down to 25 caliber. The .375 Magnum is made also in 30-1906 case only slightly necked.

In the March 15th issue of *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN*, Major Whelen gave a table listing bullet weight, velocity and energy of "Modern and Common English Rifle Cartridges." A further description is unnecessary here, except perhaps the comment that the power represented in a .275 Magnum or a 30-1906 cartridge is more and more coming to be considered by informed hunters as what is required for humane and conservative hunting and killing of deer and small bear, while for moose the 400 Whelen, 35 Whelen, .375

With ordinary guns and ammunition, the strain on the human factor is too great to permit of keeping up the high level of performance regularly. The shooter who wants to excel, on the range or in the woods, must supplement his natural endowment with every nicety and refinement in equipment that really helps. And he who attempts difficult shooting without this better equipment is handicapped.

The Hoffman Arms Company has undertaken a contract for producing all the above-named English cartridges in America. These cartridge cases will take American primers identical with the 30-1906 cases, will have center flash holes and be fully reloadable. Bullets will be of advanced designs based on the best types of both American and English game missiles. Thus the ammunition question is made simple and easy for purchasers of calibers not strictly American.

Among the surprises to be offered is an improved type of Mauser action which can be made up in a lighter gun than the Springfield. It is remarkably neat and attractive, with a new form of safety, and it never has been offered or even described in this country.

The plant is making .22 caliber match rifle barrels which should equal America's best in grouping ability. The writer fired one of these barrels in a 75-foot indoor range, and found it putting the bullets pretty much into one hole. One of the plant testers used the same gun immediately afterwards and made ten consecutive ten-shot possibles—one hundred shots in the ten ring.

All Hoffman rifles, from .22 to .50 caliber, are finish bored and rifled by hand, targeted, tested, touched up and retouched until they are shooting splendid groups and can be wholly guaranteed to do so. That is one difference between them and machine-made guns, which can be warranted only up to the level of the general accuracy of machine operations. These hand-made barrels are *right*. Targets made are sent with each rifle.

The barrel metal used is a 7½ per cent nickel steel, which is said to be rustless to a considerable degree; and also very durable. It is hard to work. In some boring observed on the machines, cutters had to be withdrawn every quarter inch for sharpening. This 7½ per cent of nickel is almost twice the proportion in most nickel steel barrels we have been getting in American rifles. Such steel probably will make barrels expensive, according to previous standards of cost, but should be good enough to justify the money.

A supply of genuine Anti-Corro steel is expected at the plant shortly; and more interesting still, a new American steel absolutely identical with it.

Stocking of rifles is based on fitting each customer individually whenever possible, by means of the try-gun and comprehensive shooting tests. However, any specifications at all, without limit, are available to the man who knows exactly what he wants. Observation in the Stocking Department showed certain tendencies in the requirements of shooters, based on experience, which should enable

(Continued on page 13)



Wood-Working and Stocking Department

Gibbs cartridge, which fired a 550-grain bullet at 2250 feet velocity, striking 6180 pounds. Doubtless the next moose hit by this hunter will need no special additional message to advise him he is dead.

Perhaps the two examples of rifles so far mentioned may lead readers to think that the production is largely of freaks. To offset them, let it be stated that a surprising number of 30-40, 38-55, 33 Winchester and other American calibers are called for. Someone wants them every day.

The leading caliber produced on demand is of course 30-1906. Close behind it in popularity are the .375 Magnum and the .275 Magnum. When the English cartridges become more generally known, they doubtless will be still more popular. Other cartridges for which Hoffman makes rifles are 7 mm.; 280 Jeffery, generally known as 333-280 Jeffery, to distinguish its thick case from the tapering 280 Ross case; 505 Gibbs; 404 Jeffery; and using this 404 case, 333 Jeffery.

Magnum and 404 and 333 Jeffery and none too large.

Smaller cartridges kill deer and moose, of course, but modern hunters under modern conditions wound too many animals that escape, before they finally manage to make their kills. Thus the conserving effects of legal bag limits are nullified by small guns. From the point of view of good sportsmanship, and of successful trips, one reaches the same conclusions.

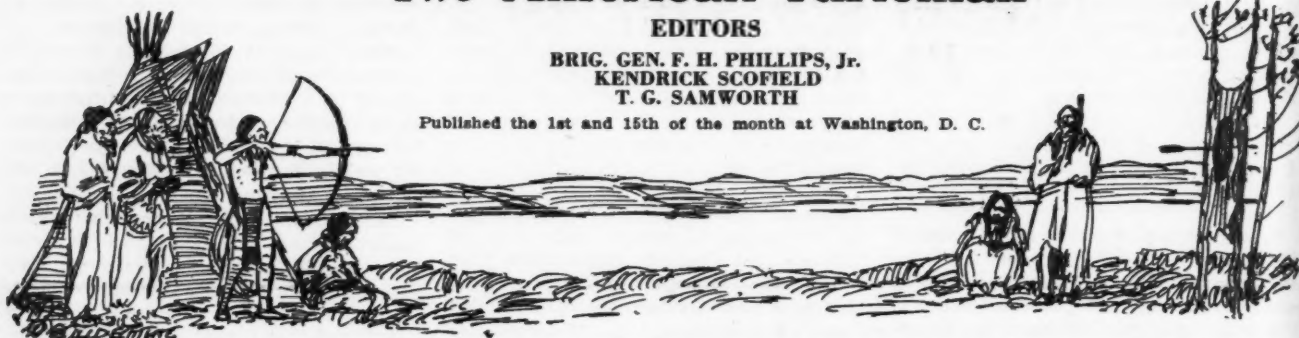
As a national condition, we American shooters are just beginning to outgrow the belief that the man behind the butt-plate is just about everything in the making of scores or the consistent killing of game. A sharp eye and proper skill is able to get fine results from almost any American rifle sold over the counter, but such fact does not prove superior equipment to be unimportant. A broad hunting experience always shows that consistently successful shooting proves elusive. It is seldom maintained except with the very best guns and ammunition.

The American Rifleman

EDITORS

BRIG. GEN. F. H. PHILLIPS, Jr.
KENDRICK SCOFIELD
T. G. SAMWORTH

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READERS of sportsman magazines know that during the past decade there has appeared a plethora of African shooting stories. From these, the reading public has become surfeited almost to the point of saturation with cut and dried accounts of the killing of lion, rhino, buffalo and the various species of buck and antelope, each of which was painfully like all others save only a difference in the names of the party. In short, after two or three of the best of these tales had been read, the others had nothing new to offer.

New Light on the Dark Continent

But in the past year, there has been a very marked change in the situation respecting "African stuff." It is apparent that there is an ever-increasing number of Americans going to Africa after big game each year. The sportsmen are those who have previously taken their annual outings in the big game fields of the United States and Canada. While amply qualified to take care of themselves after sheep, goat, elk, moose and similar game of the North Country, they are pushing into a radically different terrain—after a very different kind of trophy. And although the fundamentals of North American hunting will stand them in good stead, there is much specialized information which must be acquired before any sportsman, experienced or new at the game, can go on *safari* to the African game fields.

This information largely concerns the materially changed conditions which surround African hunting today and which are very different even from those experienced by the hunters who visited Africa about the time of Roosevelt and White.

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN has been fortunate in securing from several sportsmen recently returned from the game fields of Nairobi, Kenya and Uganda, the Soudan and Tanganyika, the accounts of their trips. While these stories possess a background of big game hunting their chief value which distinguishes them from the many tales gone before is the wealth of up-to-date detail concerning equipment and armament.

Falling into this category is the first installment of "Safari Notes," by G. D. Pope, which appears in this issue. Other papers by this author and by others equally fitted to discuss the subject will follow.

The Editors feel that in presenting these articles they are not merely adding to the bulk of African stories already printed but are placing at the disposal of the American sportsman a mine of valuable and essential information.

CHICAGO was recently treated to a spectacle of maudlin sentimentality in connection with the funeral of a man said to be a notorious gangster, which leaves little doubt as to one reason at least why criminals flourish, and which is disgusting to all one-hundred-per-cent Americans who realize that to make a martyr of the thug and gunman encourages others to defy the law.

Another Impetus to Crime

From a Chicago dispatch dated April 5, we learn that:

"Thousands of flowers, carpeting the floors of the home of Frank Caponi, alleged gangster, slain Tuesday in a pistol fight with a detective squad, were trampled by mourners, including judges, politicians, business men, gangland pals, and the detective squad from which came the fatal shot.

"Floral pieces crammed the house and covered the lawn and sidewalk in front. Orders for \$6,000 worth of flowers were delivered today before the funeral. Nearly \$20,000 worth of flowers were on display at the obsequies.

"Caponi, a brother of Alphonse 'Scarface' Caponi, known as 'Big Al' Brown, manager of the Four-Deuces Cabaret, was a lieutenant of John Torrio, gang leader and beer runner, according to the police. He was killed during disturbances incident to the village election in Cicero, a town within the limits of Chicago.

Just why \$20,000 worth of flowers should have been purchased to carpet Caponi's way to the Pearly Gates, or why judges, business men, and the detective squad from whose ranks sped the fatal bullet should have joined the gangland mourners, is not at all clear. Why the politicians attended is so apparent that it needs no conjecture; in fact, it undoubtedly supplies the reason for the presence of the judges and the detectives. As to the \$20,000, it would have been far better spent for the good of future gangsters' souls had it been devoted to teaching the city detectives the gentle art of straight shooting.

So long as persist such episodes as this—which, while revolting to the law abiding citizen, are as sweet morsels to the gangster and his ilk—just so long will all firearm regulatory laws, no matter how sane or how carefully drawn, prove useless in suppressing crime. Nor can it be a cause for wonder if gangland, some of whose members all too infrequently fall before gunfire, favors and even investigates anti-firearm laws.

There was considerable virtue as a deterrent in the old English custom of burying executed criminals in quick-lime graves dug in public roads and prison yards. The old admonition "Speak only good of the dead" can be carried too far.

(Home Papers Please Copy.)

The Stevens Model 10 Pistol

By L. C. Brown

I HAVE read Mr. Fry's articles on "The Perfect .22 Caliber Single Shot Pistol" with very great interest, but cannot help thinking he is a little hard in his criticism of the Stevens Model No. 10 pistol—this being the pistol on the frame which so strongly resembles the automatic. I have owned several Stevens pistols, including the little 6 inch Diamond Model, 6 inch Offhand, 10 inch Lord Model, and also the Offhand Model with 10 inch barrel fitted with Patridge sights, and for the last year or so the No. 10 Model has become my favorite pistol for ordinary every day use. I gave up the 6 inch barrels on account of their short sighting radius and the very special care required for a successful shot at a small mark. It was of course out of the question to lug round a Lord Model, especially as I carry my .22 caliber pistols in a shoulder holster, and I found any 10 inch barrel too long, as the foresight would catch on the cantle of a stock saddle. I always found it added very much to the interest of a ride round the stock to be able to carry some sort of a firearm and this accounts for my special appreciation of the No. 10 Model. It is no doubt a trifle heavy, but I find that when riding I rarely carry my S. & W. pistols of .22 caliber (.32-22 heavy frame revolver and target 10 inch models) because they are inclined to be a shade delicate for carrying round on a saddle.

To return to the Stevens No. 10 Model, I think the company deserves great credit for turning out this pistol with a Patridge sight. Then again the pistol seems to come naturally in line when aimed and comes up, I consider, with a very pleasant balance and even if the barrel is a trifle short for target work we still have as long a sight radius as any of the pistols with 10 inch barrels. With my objections to both the 6 inch barrels and the 10 inch barrels, I naturally wished to try the Offhand 8 inch Model, but with the arrival of the No. 10 Model I have absolutely no temptation to spend time in trying out an 8 inch barrel, and, moreover, I would have to change the sights, and would not get the satisfactory grip of the automatic handle.

I believe this model is fully as capable of possibilities under the old Bisley conditions of a two-inch bull's eye 20 yard slow fire as any of my regular target pistols with 10 inch barrels. I have not actually tested this because, as a matter of fact, I have sighted my own pistol for very small marks, such as a nail head or small knot or pebble at 20 yards, so I look upon this pistol as being correctly sighted to hit the spot aimed, in fact just sighted right for game and so I have not purposely oversighted it for the usual VI o'clock hold on a bull's eye. I take every opportunity of practice with this pistol at running jack rabbits, coyotes, etc., and find the Patridge

sights quite quick enough for this work. Much as I like this No. 10 Model, I am no better than all the other cranks I ever heard of, because it is my firm intention to try out the Colt .22 caliber automatic on the earliest opportunity.

Some time ago one of your correspondents wrote an interesting article, giving a composite diagram of several revolvers and automatics with a view to contrasting the various hand-grips, and relative positions for trigger finger. I think the general idea was to illustrate the advantage of having the barrel as nearly in line with the arm as possible so as to have the line of recoil of the barrel and the line of resistance as furnished by the hand and arm as nearly as possible opposed to one another in the same general straight line, this resulting in least possible throwup of the barrel when fired.

I applied this test of laying pistols on top of one another with barrels in agreement, using several Stevens Models as well as other pistols and automatics, etc., and was struck by the marked success of the designers of the Stevens No. 10 Model in meeting this point. I will now give an illustration of a pistol in which this point is deficient to an extreme degree.

Those of your readers who are familiar with the Mauser automatic pistols will at once see that no matter how successful Mauser may have been as a rifle designer he could not have been much of a practical pistol shot. Some years ago I bought a Mauser automatic pistol and carried it for a long time on my saddle. I had a special leather holster which was always secured to the saddle, and it was such an easy matter to put the Mauser into this holster that there was very little inducement to yield to the old temptation—"Oh, I won't see anything today—can't be bothered with a gun." One of the great objections to this gun was the fact that I was compelled to put my right thumb on the same side of the lock plate as my fingers, in other words, I could not attempt to grip with my thumb and if I did so grip with the thumb I at once checked the recoil arrangements so that the pistol would not function as an automatic. When selecting this pistol in a gunsmith's store on a somewhat brief and hurried return to civilization on the occasion of shipping cattle, and in a hurry to catch the next train home, I naturally did not realize that this Mauser would not conform to what even then I considered one of the most outstanding requirements of a practical pistol.

By Hoffman — of Cleveland

(Continued from page 11)

the plant to enable those who are undecided but cannot make the trip to Cleveland. Certainly there is every reason to think that Hoffman

stocks should represent the very latest development and ideas in dimensions and fittings, as well as fine workmanship and wood.

Although the Hoffman firm is heavily financed and is organized on a wholly permanent basis, no one individual is essential to its continued health and it is functioning along the lines of established policy. It is in its own home, has struck pay dirt within the first year, and promises to stay with us shooters. Too many of our small remodeling shops have depended to so great an extent on some one man that they have become submerged when he dropped out, as every individual inevitably must do by and by.

Were the firm differently organized, I could give interesting character sketches of its officers and how each influences present production. It is sufficient to say that the firm never will grow large enough to forbid the most personal relations between its heads and any customers who want to talk over special requirements. Its "Tailor-made" policy, calling for individual manufacture of the best in the world regardless of cost, will insure against mere bigness and machine methods.

The one thing that should be noted about the firm is that all its officers are practical hunters. They can tell you of trips into Canada and Asia, and when I was there were planning a forthcoming hunt to Africa. American shooters who visit foreign fields therefore can get first-hand information as to the requirements, as well as American-made arms to fill them.

Except the 30-1906, practically all American cartridges designed for smokeless powder are less advanced for their type and time than our best black powder cartridges were of their type in the late buffalo hunting days. They are still crude first steps. There is great opportunity for improvement in their redesign and in new cartridges. The American shooter who wants the best arms and cartridges therefore will find much food for thought in the new developments "By Hoffman."

The Improved .45 Pistol

(Continued from page 1)

This enables the average shooter to grip the trigger with the second joint of his forefinger without assuming a strained position. The front of the trigger has also been checked to afford a better grip. The width of the top of the front sight has been increased from .038" to .058". This width front sight has been placed on National Match pistols for the past four years, but has now been adopted as the standard sight for all future manufacture.

Another change has been made which cannot be shown in the picture. Our tests show that the accuracy of the pistol is improved when the bullet has a slightly tighter fit in the bore than at present. Last year, to accomplish this, the special caliber .45 National Match ammunition was made .0005" larger in diameter than the standard ammunition. In the new pistols, we are accomplishing this result by reducing the maximum land diameter by .002" and increasing the depth of the grooves .0005".

The Ordnance Department is having a number of these pistols manufactured at the present time, and has made arrangements to have 1,000 selected for National Match use.

Ballistics and Wounds

(Continued from page 2)

stretching, or cracking of the jacket at the point of greatest strain would of course allow the lead to dissipate its energy in the form of a burst through at this point and consequent "explosion" of the bullet.

In bringing all this admitted guesswork to an end, I feel that, based on the presumptions in the foregoing, we can more logically explain facts already known than by any other means. That is, the explosion of these bullets in soft tissues seems more understandable; the cone of devitalization is easier explained, especially why the apex is at the wound entrance; and, also, I can more readily visualize the process ending in an end over end tumbling with the missile flying off at an unexpected angle in the tissues. Since I am in no position to demonstrate the truthfulness of my hypothesis, some will no doubt disbelieve and disagree because of the lack of such experimental evidence. I shall feel flattered if someone after struggling through all these lines will devote enough time to the subject to give voice to any evidence "pro or con." I would rather know than just believe.

The .30 '06 Hi Speed on Game

By C. M. Carson

NOT having seen a report of any one having shot big game with the Remington high-speed, 110-grain, .30 '06, or of its execution on flesh I give the following that some of the boys might be interested in knowing just how this missile, driven at the rate of 3,500 feet per second, does its work.

When this missile came out, I was much interested to know just what it would do. I have shot so many of the various cartridges in the many makes of rifles, both here and abroad, that I decided to spend an extra hundred dollars, which would put me in a place that I knew I would have the opportunity to try it out on real game. I, therefore, take pleasure in giving you the following: One large black-tail buck was struck in the left flank, the bullet ranging forward and coming out through the right shoulder; when hit he turned a complete somersault, and lay there without a kick. He was running down hill, fairly open country. The bullet broke a rib at entry, blowing a piece of bone from this rib all through his vitals—exploding them in a terrible manner clear through its entire course. At exit it tore a hole one could easily put his fist through, tearing the shoulder bone and making a missile of every splinter.

One five-point elk, shot climbing a mountain about 350 yards away, dropped as though struck by lightning, rolling down for one hundred yards where it lay dead when I reached it. Upon examination and dissection, I found that the bullet struck about the middle of the body, coming out just behind the shoulder

on opposite side, taking a small piece of rib. Hole at entry was only the size of the bullet; but the intestines were, like the deer, exploded and torn up terribly. The only bone struck was the edge of rib at exit. The hole at exit was about the size of a dollar.

I was well pleased with the penetration of this bullet, and was surprised that it did not go to pieces, especially in the body of the elk; but, as there was only one hole at exit, it must have hung together despite its speedy flight. These kills were instantaneous, due, no doubt, to the high velocity of the bullet, which hit fairly through the bodies.

Shootin' Up the Movies

By Robert Hertzberg

SERGEANT THOMAS' story in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN some weeks ago on the shooting exploits of the "Uncles" brings to my mind some of the marvelous gunplay I have seen in various moving pictures. Like a few million other people, I am a nut genus *cinema*, but my passion (huh, more sex stuff!) for the silver screen is exceeded by one for firearms or anything that smells of gunpowder. The result is that many otherwise good pictures lose all their charm for me at the point where the cream puff hero with the white silk shirt and the ruffled hair grabs a shooting iron and begins a performance that would make Messrs. Colt, Smith, Wesson, Remington, and Winchester turn over in their graves in wonder and amazement. Let me describe a few of these exhibitions of hair-splitting off hand marksmanship.

Did you see Bill Hart in "Wild Bill Hickok"? The scene in particular that made me gasp was that of a pitched battle between the "respectable citizens" and the "bad uns" of some Hollywood frontier town during the time when ready loaded ammunition was just coming into use. There are many flashes of light from different sections of the local topography to indicate shooting; then Hart, as one of the citizens, steps into the camera range. He carries in each hand what looks like a .44 or .45 single action gun, with at least a seven-and-one-half-inch barrel, and, after planting himself right out in the open, where one shot from the enemy fired from a gun with a pretzel-shaped barrel would put him down in about half a second, he opens fire from the hips. I say "fire" advisedly; "fusillade" would probably be more appropriate. Now let's see; six plus six equals twelve, doesn't it? Well, accounts of observers may vary, but I assure you I am quite conservative when I say that at least *seventeen* shots were fired from those two guns without any perceivable interlapse during which there might have been a chance to reload. Of course, dead men were strewn all over the place.

This was one of the worst "bulls" I ever saw. Even the newspaper critics noticed it, and they raked the director of the picture over the coals in glee. I think the fault was due to poor cutting by the film editor.

Then there was a choice bit in a picture the name of which I now can't recall. The plot of the thing was type No. 274, Model B,

one of those old-fashioned thrillers about the dashing cavalry officer being imprisoned by the crool Mexicans along with the sweet gal they had kidnapped, and then being rescued by company, etc., etc. During this rescue, .45 automatics were bound to be conspicuous, and that's where the joke is. One of the rescuing party, a big negro, sees a cowardly spick about to throw a rock at the hero. In his hand is a .45, *but it is not cocked*. You see a spurt of flame and *white smoke*, and said spick topples over. An instant later, there is a flash back to the cullud boy, who is shown patting affectionately the smoking automatic, *which is still uncocked!* Oh, Sergeant Thomas, will you please explain this new Colt in the next edition of your manual?

In "The Heritage of the Desert," a picturization of one of Zane Grey's works, several of the cast go through the show wearing pistol holsters backwards. What I mean is this: The holsters are so fixed that the ones on the right hips have the butts of the guns pointing to the *front*. To draw, the wearer has to twist his hand just half way around, grab the grips, pull, and then twist half way back again. I've heard of some men who can do this quickly, but the arrangement struck me as being a dampfool one in general. Incidentally, I might mention that the armed post office clerks in New York are similarly arrayed. I asked one fellow down at City Hall how he managed, and he answered,

"Darned if I know. Never use the thing."

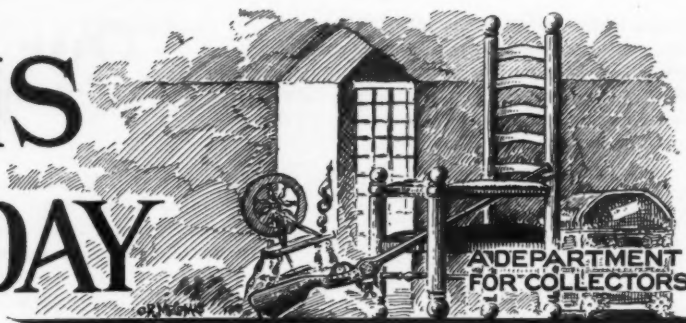
Now I think I know why an ex-postmaster-general was made czar of the movies.

Let me relate the best one of them all. It occurred in the most stirring and most interesting picture I ever saw in my life, "The Covered Wagon." I viewed the film twice, and each time my reaction was the same. I laughed out loud. Anyway, the rest of the action was superb, so I was happy.

Here's what happened. Earnest Torrence, as the picturesque guide, meets his old friend, Tully Marshall, and the two, after absorbing all the alcohol in sight, decide to indulge in a little friendly shootin'. They haul themselves and their muzzle loaders out in the open, and Torrence, already hardly able to maintain his equilibrium, balances on his head a wobbly tin can half filled with whiskey. Marshall then walks about fifty yards off, raises his cannon to his shoulder, squints carefully along the barrel in the direction of the cup, and fires. Torrence is then shown with whiskey streaming all over his face. The big ball had put a gaping hole in the tin, *but lo and behold! the can had never moved, had never even fallen to the ground!*

Can you beat it? What made it especially funny to me was the fact that only a few days before I saw the picture the first time, (December, 1923), I had been out to Rockaway Point tin-canning. A .22 long rifle bullet, fired along the full length of a long pier, would set a can half filled with sand spinning almost every time, yet here a cup perched precariously on the uncertain surface of a man's head, remains absolutely unaffected after being hit at a shorter range by what is almost a door knob! Hot dog!

FIRE ARMS & YESTERDAY



Conducted by Capt. Jerome Clark

"BURIED TREASURE"

Every collector dreams of the day when he will uncover some rare and desirable specimen in an out-of-the-way junk heap, attic or farmhouse lumber room. Like the discovery of the Cookson gun in a Baltimore junk shop, these instances, although infrequent, do occur. From time to time, "Firearms of Yesterday" will print stories of these "Buried Treasures."

The Lost Masterpiece

By B. L. Albertson Jr.

I SAW it once. Had it in my hands. Worked its ingenious mechanism. Thrilled over the magnificent though minute sculpturing of the nude figure that formed the trigger guard and the dolphin head that held the flint. Felt my face against the age-glossed burl of the most wonderfully-grained stock I have ever seen. Fired it!

That was years ago. Since then, I have learned the old repeating flintlock has gone on new wanderings perhaps as wide as when it came to the new colonies from the old world. I have never ceased regretting that I could not persuade the strange old man who hunted with it there in the South Carolina sea coast country to part with it. Only that fine old piece in my gun rack can cure me of the worst attack of "Collectors Ague" I have ever had. It is in the hope that some "brother in arms" will know something of its whereabouts or can tell me something of the piece that I am telling the story.

SOME little time before the war, I was down in South Carolina (had my vacation on a barge that year), and went out in a small boat for some shooting. About a mile above where we were tied up I heard some shooting and pulled in to have a look. Even at that early day I was gun curious, and, when I saw the gunner, pulled over to get acquainted.

He was a typical small southern farmer and we soon were talking and trading arms inspection. Mine was only a Marlin .22 but his—It was as he said "real old", an early flintlock and a repeater of most amazing beauty and in wonderful condition.

The gun was some around 50 inches over all. The stock seemed to be Italian Walnut and

when he explained her operation I found she was a lever operated repeater. All parts of the gun were engraved and inlaid. The lever was the trigger guard, made to form the figure of a nude woman tied to the rim of a wheel. This operated a sliding breech block, working in a well, somewhat like the magazine of the Springfield. Directly below the barrel was the powder magazine, opened in the decent of the block by a finger. Under this was the tubular bullet container.

The chamber of the gun was separate from but attached to this sliding block, and was housed over its top, the flash pan being a part of the chamber. At the junction of chamber and barrel was a chamfer. In use she worked somewhat as follows:

The flash pan rested, in firing, directly under the battery, after being fired the battery, instead of rolling over on the battery screw, had slid forward (exposing a priming charge dropped from the battery magazine). In reloading, the hammer was brought to the cock, the pan (used as a bolt handle by the right hand) was turned up and to the left. The muzzle elevated, as at the "charge". Then by pulling down on the trigger guard the chamber dropped into the well, in going down the face of the block engaged the stop of the powder magazine and took in a charge, when at the lowest point the left hand pulled back the stop. This inserted and seated the bullet. The trigger guard was pushed up, pan turned to right on fence and battery returned to place, ready to go. Sounds complicated but was as fast as a modern single shot B-L.

After chinning awhile, I suggested that we try her on a target, and selecting a stump on

the opposite bank my farmer friend fired four shots, all that remained in the magazine; all were hits. He took some more bullets, and pulling up, what for lack of a better name, I called the loading button, uncovered a hole in the upper part of the forearm. Into this he dropped his new supply. Then I tried a shot, for me she seemed to pull off to the right, but not being accustomed to having a miniature volcano erupt near my eye may have had something to do with that. Its old style stock seemed to lighten the recoil, as I had expected at least that of the .44, but felt no more than the little jounce one gets from a reduced .30-06.

After trying her out we chatted awhile, he admiring my Marlin with its peep sight and nice balance.

When I suggested getting back to my barge he invited me back to his "place" for a snack, I accepted. A short pull up stream and into what he called a branch landed us at the place. It had been one of those old farm houses we read about, not pretentious but fairly large; now only the small ell was used, the larger portion was a wreck—windows out and the roof most gone. He lived in the three habitable rooms, and from their appearance the Civil War was young when the last woman had seen them. We snacked and talked mostly guns and gunning. After the usual after dinner smoke he cleaned up the bore of his beauty and told me what he could of her history, showed me the gun case, mould, tools and one of a pair of pistols that were her running mates. The pistol, aside from its workmanship was the usual pattern of early flintlock, the mould cast two bullets at a time—one for the rifle, the other for the pistol. The pistol bullet was of the same caliber but was only the larger half. The box was of walnut, but had neither maker's name nor date. The outfit had been brought to America by his people, and had remained with them since, except for one of the pistols. This had been taken by one of the family to the Seminole Wars and neither ever came back.

As he had admired my rifle so much, I tried to make a dicker with him, but after going my limit (the gun and \$25.00) I gave up and left. If I had known as much then as now, I would have included my pants and shirt. I did not think much more about it until I had taken up the study of ancient arms, when I realized

what a prize it was, and in the early part of '21 went back to try again. Not knowing my friend's last name made things rather difficult, but I found the place empty. After traveling and talking more than a bit, I got together the following information.

My friend had died during the war "flu epidemic" and as there were no known "kin" his few effects had been sold to bury him. As on every farm, there had been many unsalable items, these had been lumped and sold as a lot. Who got them was not known, but it was recalled that a traveling peddler, or junk man, had been around about that time and may have taken the lot. They generally do, as the old guns bring so very little because not appreciated. I bought three flintlock shot-guns and a rifle on this trip for one dollar, another "Miscellaneous" lot.

* * *

Mr. Albertson's Story

HERE in the office we think that the story of "The Lost Masterpiece" is one of the most fascinatingly interesting stories on antique firearms that has come to light for some time. It has all the elements of romance—the lonely old man, the ramshackle falling-to-decay house, the superb example of the gunsmith's art. Enough surely to quicken the pulse of any collector, no matter how blase he may be.

It is experiences such as that of Mr. Albertson that never fail to bring a thrill. It is happenings like this that makes collecting in any of its branches the peer of hobbies. And next to knowing the keen delight of personally making such a find, is the tale of a brother collector's fortune.

These tales are the pots o'gold at the end of the rainbow. Collectors will sadly deplore the passing of the days when junk-shop journeys were profitable, when a day's search would be rewarded by some worthwhile find.

But these days have not entirely gone. Mr. Albertson and scores of others can prove it. The man who feels that there is no use poking into the out of the way places, is overlooking a source which while not as prolific as in days long gone, still turns up nuggets which assay 24 carats. The feeling that just around the next corner may lie, unrecognized, a valuable specimen, is the impetus which makes the game worth while and it's a grand and glorious feeling that accompanies the knowledge that one has saved from the oblivion of the melting pot some interesting exhibit over which a real artisan has toiled and to which a skilled workman has given the best that was in him. The antique firearm, like gold, is "where you find it," and sometimes it is in the most unlikely of places, thousands of miles from its place of origin.

How many more stories such as "The Lost Masterpiece" are hidden away in the recollections of collectors? Dig them up, brush off the dust and let's have them. There's more kick to one yarn of how a fine old weapon was found and rescued from the scrap iron heap, how it was reconditioned and its proper identity restored than there is to a volume of stories recounting how Mr. X, the famous collector, paid a record auction price for a Colt Walker.

Our Military Pistols

By Capt. Jerome Clark

Part 2

IN THE last article we described Model No. 4, or the Harpers Ferry of 1806-1808, and will now take up Model No. 5, or the contract pistol of 1810, as published in Mr. Norton's treatise.

There are some collectors who think that the model of 1810, as pictured herewith in Fig. 5, is in error and that these pistols might have been fakes made up of earlier models with 1813 bar-

know was in 1813. No specimen of any pin fastened pistol has come to light that is marked "Middletown." Therefore it is conclusive that the short model pin fastened model was made prior to this time and was no doubt made in 1800-1802.

Model No. 6 or the 1813 contract pistol was made exclusively at Middletown and is shown in Fig. 6. For many years it was thought that



Figure 5—Contract Pistol of 1810. Reproduced from Mr. North's book.

rels and bands, but we think not. There are quite a few of these pistols in collections that have been picked up under circumstances that preclude this possibility. I have personally seen a number—some marked "Berlin, Conn." and some marked "Middletown," with the brass stock mounts of the 1808 model but with barrel oc-

cluded this model was an Army pistol exclusively, but this is not correct. The Navy pistols of this model are as scarce as hen's teeth, but several have been found and Fig. 6 is one with belt hook in absolutely original condition, which was found hanging in a stable near Boston in 1919. The old gentleman who owned it stated that it

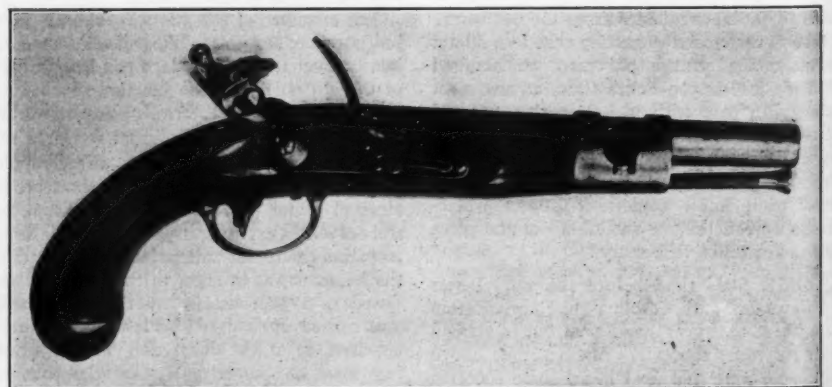


Figure 6—The 1813 Army and Navy Pistol, Caliber .69. Also in .54 Caliber of 1816-1817.

tagon at breech and with a front band. As this is the only pistol of North's that we find with both marks and the War Department records show that deliveries on the 1810 contract were not completed until after the 1813 contract had begun, it seems very clear that this pistol was made during the period that North moved his factory from Berlin to Middletown, which as we

had hung there since he was a small boy. The screw for lock plate that holds the belt hook is one-quarter inch longer than the Army Model and bears the shop mark of North. At about the same time another pistol of this model was found which is now in the collection of Mr. Skiff, of Portland, Oregon. One of these was clearly identified as having belonged to an officer

of the Navy who served on the "Constitution." It now develops that there is one in the collection of the Milwaukee Museum which was found some years ago by Mr. Lawrence, of New York. These pistols were found under conditions that precluded any chance of their having been tampered with and were considered as of no value whatever by their original owners.

No. 6 is also the Model of 1816, which differs only in caliber from the previous model. It was made in caliber .54, instead of .69 as were its predecessors, and the same model continued through 1817—the only difference being that the 1816 pistol was marked "Middletown, Connecticut" on lock and the one made in 1817, "Conn."

No. 8 is the 1818 Model Springfield made at Springfield Armory in that year only. One thousand of these pistols were made, and it is a mystery what became of them as only a few specimens survive, probably less than a dozen. They were made exactly like the cut, with a goose-neck hammer and wooden ramrod. Two or three specimens have come to light with a straight military hammer, which was probably a spare part made by the Armory to replace

Back to First Principles

BY CAPT. J. G. DILLIN

WHEN a nation is prosperous everybody spends liberally, or at least such is the rule. The road scorcher buys a high-power joy wagon and burns gas regardless of cost or the prospective needs of posterity. The rifle bug secures the best up-to-date equipment on the market, he buys expensive hand loaded ammunition in copious supplies, and the only suggestion of economy we see in his mad career is in the fact that he makes no changes in his stock of alibis. The old ones always seem to work well so he will take no risks with anything new. The scatter gun man is contemporary with the rifle bug and not dissimilar in many respects, for he also buys about everything new that comes out, his automatic and parker are supplied with half a dozen different brands of costly high power, high powdered shot cartridges, and when we see him togged up and afield we are reminded of a full trimmed Christmas tree.

Now this riot of extravagance is the aftermath of a great prosperity that has been hovering

in shape, and remember that she was the pride of the older generation, the family stand by and responsible for pot pies innumerable and is still good for many more. Now here is your mode of procedure: Take your little 25c and buy as follows—

2 ounces of F. F. G. black powder.....	10c
½ lb No. 6 shot	8c
Percussion caps	5c
Total	23c

You will still have two cents left. Your load for the old gun which is about an 18-gauge will be two drams powder and three-fourths ounce shot with a good newspaper wadding. This load will be found O. K. for any small game you will see.

How do I know all this? Well, I shall offer the proof and here it is. Back in the fall of 1921 Bill Jones was of an experimental turn of mind and the proud owner of a fine old double barrel flintlock shotgun, the vintage of about 1780. Now Bill went to an old gun store and bought as follows:

¼ lb. black powder.....	20c
1½ lb. shot	23c
Cut wads	5c
1 flint	5c
Total	53c

It will be noted that Jones used cut wads and this was rank extravagance and run his cost up excessively. He should have used paper or perhaps hornets' nest. Now let us look at the results. The season in Penna. for most all small game opens on November 1, and for the past three seasons on opening days Jones was on the job and has killed nine rabbits and one ring neck pheasant to date all with that 53c worth of ammunition and the story is not all told, for unless game is more plentiful in the future than it has been in the past Bill Jones will have enough ammunition for two more seasons, so gentle reader don't despair. If you have reverses and find your cash all but gone do as Jones did. Dig up the old muzzle loader. Of course it will be hard on some big gun and ammunition concerns and may even spell ruin for them, but I am fully resolved to broadcast this valuable economic propaganda, even if it busts them all up.

* * *

Another Service

We are constantly receiving communications from our readers in regard to the sale of antique arms—including such rarities as the Colt Walker and Patterson models. In the past week we have heard of one man in a small Western town who has the two latter and is willing to sell them at a fair price. We are also in touch with a splendid lot of U. S. muskets of all periods, including a lot of antique fowling pieces in flintlock, and one of the finest collections of Kentucky rifles ever offered.

If any of our readers are interested we will be glad to help them secure the pieces they are after by putting them in touch with others of our readers who have such stuff to dispose of. There is no charge for this service, and we only insist that in such dealings if the buyer is not satisfied he can have his money refunded by paying express charges on the returned specimens.



Figure 7—The Springfield of 1818.

broken goose-neck ones, as the specimens found seem to have exactly similar hammers. This model is probably the rarest of all the U. S. military pistols that were actually made in quantity and issued to troops. Some collector occasionally picks up an experimental U. S. pistol that probably was made to try out and there were undoubtedly many different pistols made under contract by the different States for their militia, but we are only going to deal in these articles with such arms as are known to have been issued for use by the regular forces of the United States.

In this connection the arms shipment records of Harpers Ferry have just been checked, and it is found that there were eight pistols shipped in 1806 but this proves nothing—as these eight pistols were probably models sent to the Ordnance Office for selection of a suitable model to ship to Col. North for 1808 Contract. The Harpers Ferris dated 1806 were probably not of record as they were shipped early in 1807 and included in the report for that year—and it would be impossible to find out how many were fabricated.

You will notice that during this period the pistols began to appear with front sights and in our next article we will take up the period where the rear sight also came into use.

about the nation for the past two or three years. So much for good times and rapid fire spending, but occasionally we hear from the pessimist; he tells us in the most emphatic way that this wave of prosperity cannot last. It will strike upon the rocks of adversity and go to smash. Then the depression, then the depressed extravagance must cease.

Let us draw upon our imagination. Let us fit a seam to this dreadful climax. The wheels of industry have ceased to turn. Soup houses and bread lines are in evidence. When the open season on small game comes around we are in bad shape, we want to go gunning but oh, the cost, we cannot buy a box of shot cartridges for 25c so must stay at home, and then, too we are reminded that our parker and automatic are both up the street in storage, yes the man has them, but he is very considerate and has hung up three balls in front of his place just to remind us where we have left them.

But, dear reader, do not despair; even though the wolf may howl at your door there is hope. You can still go gunning, for the old muzzle loader—it is back in the attic and has not been noticed for about forty years—she is still good and will do the trick. Just clean her up and get her



Conducted by ————— C.B. Lister

"PROPAGANDA"

Mr. William G. Harry, Secretary of the Canon City, Colorado, Rifle and Pistol Club, in forwarding two dollars for a subscription to *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN* to be sent to the Canon City Public Library, makes this comment:

"The club has made the donation to the library to do one more thing in placing what the magazine advocates before the public."

The one difficulty with any educational campaign that may be carried on through the columns of *THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN* is that the material reaches principally men who are all firm believers in the gospel of straight shooting. This action on the part of the Canon City Club will place the magazine where the reading public will see it and where the shooter's side of the question will be available to and will be read by many people, and every such casually interested citizen becomes a potential booster for the local rifle shooting organization.

WHEELING, W. VIRGINIA ORGANIZES

What gives promise of being an unusually active organization was perfected in Wheeling, West Virginia on the first of April. The leading backers of the rifle club are also active in the affairs of the West Virginia Wild Life League, and it is anticipated that as a result of this organization in Wheeling and a better understanding of the manner in which the work of the N. R. A. dovetails with that of the various Game Conservation Associations, that a large proportion of the West Virginia sportsmen interested in the Wild Life League will also become interested in the work of the N. R. A. and will tie up either as individuals or clubs with the riflemen's fraternity.

Mr. E. C. Burkham is President of the new club; Dr. G. E. Geisler, Vice-President; Mr. H. F. Gordon, Secretary; Mr. J. A. Burkett, Treasurer; and Mr. Harry G. Clark, Executive Officer. The range is already available, and the club expects to start active work immediately.

CENTRAL OHIO RIFLE TOURNAMENT SUCCESSFULLY STAGED

Backed by the Columbus Business Men's Rifle Club and sponsored by the *Columbus Dispatch*, the Third Annual Central Ohio Gallery Tournament was put over in Columbus during the month ending April 5th. The *Columbus Dispatch* carried the load of publicity and organization of the two preceding tournaments this year, though there was some falling off in interest in the gallery game in Columbus, and it fell to the lot of the Columbus Business Men's Club, under the leadership of Mr. E. S. Hooe, their Secretary, to put the competition over. The

successful manner in which this was accomplished has been evident from the detail clippings which have been sent in during the progress of the shoot. The first two weeks of the competition were conducted on a single entry basis, with prizes for high scores in various positions, novices, etc., each week. The last two weeks were on a re-entry basis, and proved to be a great deal more popular with the riflemen. During the competition, three hundred and fifteen different competitors took part in the matches.

According to Mr. Hooe, "We stirred up a lot of interest, and signed up some new and desirable members. It was well worth while and a bigger shoot will be put on next winter."

Just how much the tournament training had to do with it is a matter of conjecture, but the Columbus Business Men's Club won the fifty-foot Interclub Championship for this season at the opportune moment when their winning coincided with the closing of the Central Ohio Shoot, so that the front page of the sport section of *The Columbus Sunday Dispatch* for April 6th looked like a riflemen's newspaper.

J. H. Kirby, of the Business Men's Club, was the outstanding figure of the Central Ohio Tournament, and won the Central Ohio Championship and the Peters Challenge Cup, a trophy which has been in competition for twenty years. The prize list for the Central Ohio Tournament, consisting of awards made by various sporting goods houses, banks, and newspapers in central Ohio was generous enough to warrant the splendid turnout that attended the matches. A total of seventy-two prizes, ranging from a Model 52 Winchester to the Peters Challenge Trophy down through magazine subscriptions, fountain pens, flash-lights, cases of canned goods, bill folds, etc., down to two-pound boxes of candy, were awarded. It is unfortunate that space does not permit a complete listing of the prize winners and competitors' scores in this match.

The Central Ohio Tournament is becoming increasingly important in the eyes of the gallery riflemen of the Buckeye State. It stands as an example of what can be accomplished when a bunch of active boosters get behind the rifle shooting game with the idea that it can be made as big a thing in the eyes of a community as the fortunes of the local baseball team.

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, HURLS A BOOMERANG

Something over a year ago, Mr. W. M. Perry, President of the Columbia, South Carolina Rifle and Revolver Club, decided that the police officers of this city should know more about handling their guns. With the co-operation of the officials of the police department, he and the

members of his club set out to teach the uniformed guardians of the law. There have been several matches between the civilians and the police which to date have always wound up with the civilians on top. The other day the police turned the tables, however, and the following clipping from the "Columbia Record" for Friday, April 11 tells the story.

Running up a total score of 415 points, a team of five police officers last night won out over a team representing the Columbia Rifle and Revolver Club in a shooting contest held in a warehouse at 1611 Main Street, the rifle club scoring 391 points.

The contest was witnessed by a crowd of about 100 people and its progress was followed with interest.

If, at any time, a civilian club should rather enjoy being licked, it is when the police officers of their own community administer the drubbing. There are probably quite a few thousand civilian shooters around the country who would feel considerably more comfortable about going to bed if they knew the police department could beat them in a pistol match. To such shooters, the example set by Mr. Perry and his colleagues of Columbia is a shining star to which many carts might be hitched. The following paragraphs from Mr. Perry's letter of transmittal are also of interest:

To illustrate what a little intelligence, training and practice will do for a bunch of men in pistol shooting, I want to relate the following incident which happened under my own observation.

Three years ago we had a "near riot" in this town, and to be sure that our police force was properly prepared, I took them out of the city to a range and had each fellow fire one round from his revolver, rifle and shot gun, to see that the arms were in working condition, and that the men knew how to handle same.

I was amazed at the poor marksmanship that existed, and then and there made up my mind to do my best to improve this force, and volunteered my services to the city for that purpose.

While on this try-out there was one man on the force who was by far the best shot on it. This man has been off of the force for the last year or so, and was reinstated a few weeks ago, and at the last two weekly shoots we have had, I put him up against the other fifty-two men we have on the police force who have been taking training from myself, Captain Barker and Captain Purdy for six months, and as unbelievable as it may sound, this man is now the poorest shot on the force, but still shoots as well as he did three years ago. In other words, the rest of the force has moved up, while he, being away from the force has stayed right where he was.

URBAN UNIVERSITY MATCH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington University continued its consistent winnings by defeating New York University, University of Cincinnati, and City College of New York in a four-cornered match among the urban universities. George Washington's score was 1924 as compared with 1910 for New York University, 1892 for Cincinnati, and 1880 for City College of New York.

AN OPEN CHALLENGE

Mr. C. T. Patterson, 843 Napier Avenue, Lawrence Park, Erie, Pennsylvania, is in a militant mood. The Lawrence Park Club has acquired a splendid outdoor range with targets now available up to eight hundred yards. This club wants matches shoulder-to-shoulder or telegraphic, with any club at any range from two hundred to eight hundred yards.

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IT HAS been decided to attempt this year, for the first time, a real nationwide effort to awake in America its old pride of accomplishment with the rifle. It is a trait of human nature that if a definite time is set for accomplishing a given purpose, much more can be done than if it is merely said, "We will do this or that during the year"; and, accordingly, a definite date has been established for the maximum effort this year.

June 7th has been established, first because it is Saturday; second, because it comes after the close of the high schools in the agricultural sections and before the beginning of final examinations in the urban sections; and third, because it is the earliest practicable date for the opening of outdoor ranges in all parts of the country. The suggested standardized program to be staged calls for an open event at one hundred yards, twenty shots prone; a novice event at fifty yards, ten shots prone and ten shots standing; and a junior event at fifty feet, ten shots prone and ten shots standing, any .22-caliber rifle, any ammunition, any sights not containing glass. Rifle clubs will throw open their range facilities to their communities on this date. The personnel of the club will give up their own shooting for that day, and will bend all their energies toward showing their visitors the true good fellowship of the range, and to coaching and assisting in every possible manner. If some good local shooter can be obtained to put on an attractive exhibition of snap shooting or anything which will appeal to popular fancy, he will add just that much to the effectiveness of the occasion.

An especial effort will be made by all clubs to turn out a maximum number of high school students. An effort is being made from this office to secure the approval of the national secretaries of the Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, and similar organizations, and local clubs will immediately make every effort to secure the co-operation of their local business men and community organizations. The idea will be to select, as a result of the junior competition, one high school boy who will be eligible for a trip to the School of Instruction and Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, the expenses of this lad being borne by the local organizations supporting the National Rifle Day program. If this project is carried through to a successful conclusion, it will mean that every city and town of any size in the United States will be represented by one youngster at Camp Perry, and it will be up to the riflemen of the community to so train their young representatives between July 7th and September 7th that when he reaches Camp Perry he will be a worthy representative of his community, and it is to be anticipated that there will be the keenest rivalry between the representatives of Jacksonville and Portland, Bangor and Los Angeles, Detroit and

National Rifle Day

El Paso to carry away honors in the open matches and in the special matches which will be arranged for the young riflemen. It is felt that this plan can be made to do more to stimulate interest in rifle shooting and to develop those characteristics of real manhood and real Americanism in the coming generation than any other plan that can be evolved.

In order to back up the local activities of the clubs, they will be furnished with material for publicity in their local papers, syndicated

attacks the problem in a half-hearted or lukewarm manner.

In the case of individuals living in communities where clubs are not organized, the opportunity is presented of so arousing public sentiment that the installation of a small-bore range will become a possibility and the organization of an active club a necessity. In this connection, the work accomplished by Mr. C. C. Berkeley, of Newport News, last year was a splendid example of what can be done. Two years ago, Mr. Berkeley, so far as he knew, was the only rifleman in his city. Today there is an active club operating in Newport News which has the hearty support of the city officials, the police department, and civic organizations.

This work was accomplished by one live wire, without the assistance of a national campaign such as is proposed during the coming month leading up to National Rifle Day on June 7th. If Mr. Berkeley did it under those circumstances, any individual member of the National Rifle Association can do it with the aid of this campaign, if he will.

Rifle clubs may strengthen the campaign by preparing show cards or handbills of their own for distribution to their sporting goods dealers, by printing copies of their own program for the year and distributing them through the same channels, and by including in these programs extracts from the N. R. A. Spring Program and information relative to the School of Instruction and National Matches at Camp Perry.

National Rifle Day, Saturday, June 7th, will be an outstanding date in the annals of American marksmanship if every sportsman in the United States puts his shoulder to the wheel.

The membership of the National Rifle Association for this year has already passed the 11,000 figure, which was not attained until the latter part of August, 1923. The affiliation of new members is proceeding at a rate far ahead of any previous peace-time activities. Magazines are finding an ever increasing amount of space for the riflemen. America is slowly awakening to its old interest and enthusiasm for the rifle shooting game.

The activities on this day will naturally lead up to another project which it is hoped to make some day nation-wide, and that is the celebration of Independence Day, the Fourth of July, in the real, old American manner of a great shooting holiday. In the pleas that have become incessant for a safe and sane Fourth of July celebration, the live rifle club can find splendid material for its own publicity. Statistics can easily be given from your own range to prove that rifle shooting is the safest of sports, while no real American will deny that anything could be saner than the training of our citizenry in the use of the rifle. Bear this in mind in connection with your plans for the celebration on June 7th.

NATIONAL RIFLE DAY

WHEN — Saturday, June 7th.

WHY — To Start America on the trail to becoming once again "A Nation of Riflemen."

HOW — By Opening All Civilian Club Ranges to the Public.

By Local Newspaper Publicity.

By National Publicity.

By Window Displays in Sporting Goods Dealers' Windows.

By enlisting the co-operation of all public spirited organizations who believe the spirit of a Nation of Riflemen is the best insurance against aggression from crooks at home or enemies abroad.

articles will be supplied the national news services (some of these articles have already been published), sporting goods dealers everywhere will co-operate and will display window cards calling attention to National Rifle Day, and any special assistance that local clubs may suggest or require to help put the campaign over will be rendered from this office.

In the case of rifle clubs, this National Rifle Day effort will offer the best method of securing the co-operation of newspapers and civic organizations that has ever been given them. It will serve as a means of recruiting a club up to an active strength hitherto impossible. These things can and will be accomplished if the club officers throw themselves into the project with all the enthusiasm, intelligence and energy that they possess. Nothing will be accomplished if the club

NAVAL ACADEMY WILL STAGE NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE MATCH

The National Match series assumes an entirely new angle this year as a result of the action of the National Board for Promotion of Rifle Practice at its February meeting, in authorizing a trophy for a National Intercollegiate Match with the Service rifle. It is, of course, the desire of the Board and of the college riflemen to stage the Intercollegiate Match as a part of the regular National Match program at Camp Perry, but such a plan is obviously out of the question this year because of the dates of the Camp Perry meeting. Accordingly, it has been decided to stage the National Intercollegiate Match on the range of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. The match will be fired Saturday, May 17th. The conditions of the competition are as follows:

Date: May 17, 1924.

Place:

U. S. Naval Academy Rifle Range, Annapolis, Maryland.

Open to:

One or more teams from any college or university.

Entrance fee: None.

Entries close:

Entries will be made by mail or telegram to the Executive Officer, National Board for Promotion of Rifle Practice, 1108 Woodward Building, Washington, D. C., so as to arrive not later than noon Saturday, May 10th.

Course of fire:

200 yards slow fire standing, 2 sighting shots, 10 shots for record, Target A.

200 yards rapid fire sitting or kneeling from standing, 10 shots for record, Target A.

300 yards rapid fire prone from standing, 10 shots for record, Target A.

600 yards slow fire, 2 sighting shots, 10 shots for record.

Time limit:

One minute per shot slow fire stages. One minute for the string of 10 shots at 200 yards rapid fire. One minute and ten seconds for the string of 10 shots at 300 yards rapid fire.

Rifle: U. S. .30 Model 1903 as issued.

Sights: As issued.

Trigger pull: Not less than three pounds.

Sling:

May be used in all positions except 200 yards slow fire. At 200 yards slow fire the sling will be placed in the parade position.

Positions:

As defined in Rifle Marksmanship and National Match regulations 1924.

Ammunition:

As issued. (National Match Ammunition.)

Prizes:

To the winning team, the National Trophy, to be held for one year or until the next competition, and bronze medals. Bronze medals to the second and third teams.

Team squad:

Each team will consist of six firing members, Team Captain, Team Coach, and if desired, one alternate.

Coaching permitted at all stages.

Transportation:

Competing teams will be required to pay their own transportation expenses to and from Annapolis.

Subsistence:

Subsistence and quarters will be furnished competing teams at the Naval Academy. Teams from a distance desiring to familiarize themselves with the conditions at Annapolis may report on the night of Thursday, May 15th, or the morning of Friday, May 16th, and subsistence and quarters will be furnished them as well as ammunition for practice, until the evening of Saturday, May 17th.

General regulations:

National Match Rules, or the regulations of the National Rifle Association will govern throughout the competition.

For several years past, the midshipmen have been hosts to teams of college riflemen at an annual rifle match of this character. Being familiar with the methods of handling such a competition and having already laid the ground work for this year's matches, it was generally felt that the Annapolis range was the proper place to hold this first officially recognized National Intercollegiate event.

The Naval Academy will make all preliminary arrangements and will see that the range is properly manned and competitors are provided for. Rear Admiral Henry B. Wilson, Superintendent of the Naval Academy, is wholeheartedly in favor of the plan, and has placed at the disposal of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice all possible facilities at the Academy for the holding of a smooth running and successful competition.

Entries will remain open until the Saturday preceding the firing of the match. At present, the following institutions have made known their intention of participating: George Washington, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Princeton, Syracuse, Cornell, Penn, Drexel, and the Naval Academy.

College rifle shooting has progressed steadily since the war, rising from a state of indifference on the part of the student athletic councils to the full rank of a minor sport in a majority of the larger colleges and universities throughout the country. It is felt that the authorization of a National Trophy for the Intercollegiate Match will bring to a successful climax the efforts to have the sport fully recognized as a letter sport at every institution in the country.

The funds available will not permit the payment of traveling expenses of teams attending the match. Civilian riflemen can do a great deal towards stimulating interest in the game on the part of the undergraduates, who are the future generation of riflemen in this country, by taking all possible steps to see that teams from institutions in their locality are properly financed for the trip. This can be accomplished by enlisting the support of the student athletic councils, by local subscription or by assistance from local civic organizations.

A complete report covering the results of the competition will be published in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN for June 1st.

CHICAGO RIFLE CLUB'S OUTDOOR SCHEDULE FOR 1924

Jan. 13th—Novelty Match.

Feb. 10th—Novelty Match.

Feb. 24th—Novelty Match.

Mar. 9th—First match to count in grand aggregate; 200 yards, 10 shots offhand, 10 shots rapid sitting; 300 yards, 10 shots slow, sit or kneel, 10 shots rapid prone. U. S. A. rules. Entry, 50 cents. Split 40-30-20%, 10% to Club.

Mar. 23rd—Novelty Match.

April 13th—Pistol Match; service pistol, firing Army Pistol Qualification Course. Entry and prizes same as March 9th.

April 27th—First half of the Army Qualification Course. Service rifle and service sights. Entry, 50 cents. U. S. A. rules.

May 11th—Second half of the Army Qualification Course. Entry 50 cents. These two matches to count for one medal.

May 25th—Novelty Match.

June 8th—300 meter match, International rules. Entry, \$1.00.

June 22nd—Novelty Match, 1,000 yds. Unique prizes. Entry, \$1.00.

July 13th—Karcher K&P Match. Entry, \$1.50. 10 shots sitting, 300 yards; 10 shots prone, 600 yds.; 10 shots prone, 1,000 yds. Any rifle, any sight.

July 27th—Novelty Match.

Aug. 10th—Wimbledon. Entry, \$1.00.

Aug. 24th—Leitch Cup (conditions). Entry, \$1.00.

Sept. 14th—Members' Match. Qualification Course. Entry, \$1.00.

Sept. 28th—Novelty Match.

Oct. 12th—Pistol Match. Any pistol. Entry, \$1.00. 10 shots slow, 10 timed and 10 rapid at 25 yards, and 10 slow at 50 yards.

Oct. 26th—Novelty Match.

It is understood that any contestant has the right to choose whether he will take his share of the winnings in cash or medal or medals. It is also understood that if the medals cost more than the entry fees, the winners take either cash for their share or pay the difference between the amount received and the cost of their medal.

In case the winner desires cash, it is to be divided as follows: 1st place, 40%; 2nd place, 30%; 3rd place, 20%, the remaining 10% to go to the Club.

Medals—1st place, Gold Filled. 2nd place, Silver. 3rd place, Bronze.

All matches from March 9th to October 26th, inclusive, are to count for the Grand Aggregate. Any contestant wishing to enter the Grand Aggregate, can do so by a payment of an entry fee of 50 cents, and had better attend regularly.

The above schedule has been approved by the Commanding Officer at Fort Sheridan, where these matches will be shot, with the reservation that if the Army wishes the range on any of the above dates, we must postpone our match to the next available date.

The above is a sample of the right way to start your season's activities. Let your club members know in advance what is going to happen, so that they can prepare for it. We do not know just what the Novelty Matches consist of, but will try to find out, and will pass along any good ideas that they may contain.

* * *

GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS "DONE WRONG"

Due to an error in transcribing the offhand score as eighty-one instead of eighty-seven credited to Newcomb, of George Washington University in the Intercollegiate Match, the George Washington Team was posted in the results published in our issue of April 15th, with a team total of 2919. The correct team total for George Washington University in the Intercollegiate Match was 2925.

THE DOPE BAG



**A FREE SERVICE TO TARGET, BIG GAME AND FIELD SHOTS
ALL QUESTIONS BEING ANSWERED DIRECTLY BY MAIL**

Rifles and Big Game Hunting: Major Townsend Whelen Pistols and Revolvers: Major J. S. Hatcher
Shotgun and Field Shooting: Capt. Charles Askins

Every care is used in collecting data for questions submitted, but no responsibility is assumed for any accidents which may occur.

The Choice of Small Bore Rifles and Their Accuracy

By Townsend Whelen

I AM constantly being asked through "The Dope Bag" as to what make of small bore rifle I would advise, or which make is the most accurate, or even to help the correspondent decide as to which of two rifles to purchase. In almost all cases it is impossible to answer any of these inquiries specifically. I do not know which make of small bore rifle is the most accurate, and in fact all my experience and my search of existing records seems to clearly indicate that there is no difference in the accuracy of any of our leading makes of small bore rifles and that the choice between them must be made on purely personal grounds and depends upon the shooter's personal ideas relative to action, stock, and sights.

There seems to be a good deal more difference in the accuracy of individual barrels of .22-caliber than exists between the individual barrels of the .30-caliber Springfield. Select twenty .30-caliber Springfield rifles of various bore and groove diameters, paying no attention to star gauge records, and test them. About eighteen of them will shoot excellently, and so nearly alike that there can be no choice between them. One may seem to shoot just a little better than the average, and one not quite up to average, but the entire standard will be very high. Now take twenty small bore rifles of any make and there will be more difference between them. The best will shoot superbly, and from these there will be a gradual falling off in accuracy down to the poorest of the lot, which will shoot rather poorly. In other words, getting a good .22-caliber barrel is more of a gamble than getting a good .30 Springfield barrel. Ninety-five per cent of the Springfield barrels will be excellent, and the other five per cent very good. But I should say that about fifty per cent of the .22-caliber barrels would be excellent, about forty-eight per cent very good, and about a two per cent chance for a poor one. However, the maker of the rifle would most certainly make good on the poor barrel, so the purchaser is really not taking so much of a risk as would appear.

I believe this holds true not only with the regular factory made barrels, but also with the special hand made barrels as well, except that

the maker of the hand-made barrel tests his barrels more by shooting, and in order to maintain his high reputation he tries not to let a mediocre shooting barrel get out. He probably makes just as large a proportion of poor shooting barrels as does the big factory. It is also my opinion that if one takes the trouble to test a factory barrel thoroughly with various makes and lots of ammunition he will in many cases find a combination that will do just as good work as the special hand-made barrel. Certainly a search of the records of our big matches fails to show that the special barrel makers have any decided monopoly of accuracy, although the chances of a hand-made barrel being an excellent shooter are perhaps greater, due to the amount of testing done before delivery.

Many fine shooting barrels are undoubtedly condemned as inaccurate simply because the ammunition used was not suited to that particular barrel. I have never seen a .22-barrel that would shoot equally well with all makes and lots of ammunition. Nor can it be foretold beforehand what make of ammunition will do best in a certain make of rifle. Moreover one rifle may shoot splendidly with a certain lot and make of ammunition, but do poor work with another lot of the same make of cartridge. This is no criticism of the ammunition, but is simply the nature of the brutes. I imagine that if we took all makes of ammunition and shot them at machine rest through ten rifles of each make, that the average of all makes would be pretty near alike, but we would find some individual rifles shooting finely with certain makes and lots of cartridge, and very poorly with others. A "lot" of ammunition is that which is made on one machine on one day, with the same lot of priming and the same lot of powder. It is then packed for shipment from the factory in the same case. The only way to find out what the capabilities and accuracy of a certain rifle is to test it by firing from rest, preferably at 100 yards, with a number of lots and makes of ammunition. If the rifle is any good, before one has tried half a dozen lots he should find one that gives fine accuracy. Then buy a couple of thousand

rounds of that lot and stick to it while it lasts.

I also believe that many of us set too high a standard of accuracy for our small bore rifles, and are disappointed when a certain rifle does not come up to this standard. From an examination of the scores shot in the big matches, some of us get an idea that a good rifle should shoot all its shots inside the ten ring at 100 yards; that is, make groups of two inches or less at that range. I certainly would like to find a rifle that would do that right along, and I think every other small bore shot of note would like to also. Some time ago I saw a very thorough machine rest test of a particular small bore rifle that was noted for its accuracy. Over a long period this rifle had shown itself to be measurably more accurate than half a dozen other rifles. It was tested at 100 yards, using two lots of each of the five most popular makes of .22-caliber long rifle cartridges. With one lot it did shoot inside of two inches, but this lot of ten groups of ten shots each contained three groups that were over two inches, including one group of almost three inches. And the other lot of this same make was excelled by three lots of other makes. One lot of a certain make did fairly well, but the other lot of the same make averaged almost six-inch groups. Excluding this poor lot, the average for the other nine lots was about 2.90 inches. But with a fair degree of care in selecting ammunition one could correct on this rifle averaging about 2.25 inches at 100 yards. I would call it a very accurate rifle.

In testing small bore rifle for accuracy care must be taken in selecting a good day on which to shoot. Almost any kind of a wind will enlarge the group of a small bore rifle at 100 yards. Nor will a small bore rifle shoot well on cold days. The temperature of rifle and ammunition should be between 75 and 80 degrees to do the best work. Starting with a clean, cold rifle, certainly at least five shots should be fired through it before starting a record score or groups in order not only to foul the rifle, but to warm it up to an even temperature.

Most of the celebrated small bore shots that we see shooting up among the prize winners have two or more rifles which have been carefully selected by a process of elimination. They are constantly testing these rifles with a number of lots of ammunition, and the chances are that the rifle and ammunition that they use in a match is the combination that is doing the closest shooting at that particular time. When you get a good barrel, stick to it, but keep on testing it with various lots of ammunition so that you will know at any time what will best deliver the goods.

Back in 1909 I purchased a .22 Winchester single shot with No. 3 barrel, and had it equipped with a Winchester 5A scope, one of the first scopes ever put out by that company, and, by the way, it has done splendid work all these years, and today after fourteen years work is still as good as ever, and it has only been cleaned once. Small bore shooting was in its infancy in those days and we were just beginning to talk about shooting the .22 at ranges over 25 yards. I had an indoor gallery up to 100 yards, and I started a series of tests at all ranges with all makes of cartridges, and I learned a lot. About that time I had a little discussion with Winchester about long range accuracy and they sent up Captain Laudensack to prove that Winchester ammunition would shoot. Needless to say, he did not bring along with him any poor gas pipe. We went down to the gallery and started in. He led off and shot a number of groups and showed them to me to prove the stuff would shoot. I allowed that they were fair only, and then I proceeded to use his ammunition in my rifle, and I had the joy of seeing his eyes open when he saw the little pippin groups my rifle turned out. Anyway it was all done with Winchester rifles and Winchester ammunition so everybody was pleased. This old rifle shot so well that I continued to use it for years, and in fact still am using it.

Then I got monkeying around with many other rifles as interest in small bore shooting increased, and owned and shot almost every make on the

market. In 1921 I got a Winchester Model 52 and around about the National Matches it was shooting so sweetly that I used it in the Dewar Trophy match, landing second highest score. Then Ed Crossman got talking to me, with the result that I invested in a B. S. A. In practice I got some remarkable groups with it, so I used it at Sea Girt in 1922 and came away with my share of the prizes. Also at that meeting I came away with 1000 rounds of each make of ammunition on the grounds, and back at Frankford I proceeded to test all these makes in all three of my rifles—the old Winchester single shot, the Winchester Model 52 of the previous year, and the new B. S. A. Result: All makes of ammunition and all rifles shot finely, but the old Winchester single shot was head and shoulders above the others. Now don't that beat the devil. Why didn't I continue to use the old Winchester and win all the prizes; and think of the money and time I wasted in experiments. Gosh!

LOADS FOR THE WEBLEY

I HAVE a Webley .455 but it is not accurate enough on account of the loads I have for it. It does not have smash enough for what I want. What charge of powder and what kind should I use to get a good smashing result? What primers and what bullet weight? What do you think of this side arm? The cartridges I have are British but do not have heavy enough powder charge. The bullets are rounded out at both ends. They will just sink their length in wood. C. H. R., Houtzdale, Pennsylvania.

Answer (by Maj. Hatcher). The .455 Webley Cartridge has a 275-grain bullet, and the rather low velocity of 590 f.s. I do not believe that you will be able to load this cartridge to get any increased velocity.

In order to overcome your difficulty, I would suggest using the .455 Colt cartridge, which has a 265-grain bullet, and a muzzle velocity of 756 f.s., which gives you over fifty percent (50%) increased energy.

The weapon itself is a very excellent one, as the heavy low velocity bullet, while not having a great deal of penetration, has sufficient power to quickly put an adversary out of business.

PRIMING THE .45

I AM having difficulty with the priming in re-loading .45 caliber Colt's Revolver Cartridges and should like to have your advice on the following.

I have a .45 Colt's revolver, purchased through the N. R. A., to which I had Colt fit a $7\frac{1}{2}$ -inch barrel. I am using Frankford Arsenal cases which require the small size primers. I have tried Winchester No. 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Remington No. 6, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 10, none of which seem to give proper ignition. There is after each shot unburned powder in the barrel and often a hand or misfire, all of which I believe would indicate that the primer is not strong enough to ignite the charge.

The charges used are Bond 190-grain bullet with $8\frac{1}{2}$ grains No. 3 duPont and 8 grains of No. 5 du Pont. Ideal 255-grain bullet with $7\frac{1}{2}$ grains No. 3 du Pont and 12 grains of No. 80 du Pont. I also tried Schuetzen powder with about the same results. I also tried cutting down the excess air space in shell with a wad of absorbent cotton to keep the small charges of powder in rear of shell, which did not improve conditions.

I do not believe that the trouble is with the gun, as it fires the Government loaded shell properly. My tools size the bullet to .454 inch diameter and the barrel calipers .452. I believe this is O. K. Enlarging the flash hole improves things slightly.

Recently I purchased one thousand "Western" .45 caliber cases which take the large primers, using the same loads I get excellent results. I have about two thousand Frankford Arsenal cases and would like to know if there is some way out

of this difficulty or must I scrap these cases? R. B. M., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Answer (by Maj. Hatcher). The trouble you are having is due entirely to the small size of the primers in the cartridges you are using, and consequently the difficulty in obtaining proper ignition.

The most of the primers you have been using are for rifle ammunition. For example, Winchester No. 1 has a high percentage of fulminate, and consequently is too fast to give the proper ignition in this cartridge. It is used in the .32-20, .38-40 and .44-40 cartridges.

Remington No. 10 is for high powered ammunition. In this primer the metal is .027" thick, and this thickness of the metal is one of the reasons why the primer will not be satisfactory for revolver use.

I am sure that there is no trouble with your gun, or with your reloading tools. The best way out of your difficulty is to use any commercial type of cartridge case which has the large size primer pocket.

The primers adapted to the .45 Colt with smokeless powder, are the No. 7S Western, the 3W Winchester, the No. 7 Remington, the No. 2 Peters, or the No. 2 Monogram U. S. Primers.

It is possible that you might get good results with your F. A. shells using the Remington No. 1 primer, which is intended for the .45 caliber Colt cartridge with black powder. However, this is only a chance, and I believe that your best bet is to simply discard the shells with the small primer pocket.

THE .45 AUTO AND SAFETY

WHAT is the safest way to carry the Model 1911 automatic pistol, ready for action?

The present Training Regulations, and the Provisional Cavalry Drill Regulations of 1916 direct that the pistol shall be carried at full cock with the thumb safety on. However, the Provisional Drill and Service Regulations for Field Artillery of 1916 directed that the pistol should be carried with a cartridge in the chamber and the hammer lowered full down.

Of course, the gun is of little use for self-defense if the chamber is empty, for it takes time to draw the slide back. But it seems that, if the gun were carried by a motorcyclist, for example, there might be some danger of the safety jarring off, or the hammer jarring off half cock, especially if the parts were worn.

My impression is that, when the hammer is lowered down, the firing pin does not impinge on the primer, but is flush with the firing pin hole in the breech block; and that, when the hammer falls in firing, the pin fires the primer by its own inertia, and not under the direct impulse of the mainspring. If this is correct, then the hammer rests flat against the rear face of the slide when it is lowered full down; and consequently this would be the safe method of carrying the gun loaded.

But if, on the other hand, the firing pin is longer than its housing, then when the hammer is lowered, the firing pin rests on the primer, and the cartridge is likely to be fired if a blow is struck on the hammer; and, in this case, the method of the old F. A. Regulations is exceedingly unsafe.

I am sorry to trouble the Major about this minor point, but I cannot find anywhere a statement regarding the length of the firing pin. I should like to find out definitely the safest method of carrying the gun. J. F. F., Williams-town, Massachusetts.

Answer (by Maj. Hatcher). The safest way, and in fact the only safe way to carry a Colt Automatic Pistol, caliber .45, loaded and ready for action, is with a cartridge in the chamber and the hammer lowered fully. In this condition the gun is perfectly safe, as the firing pin is shorter

than its housing, and there is no way to make it strike the cartridge.

The action in firing is that the hammer falls and strikes the rear end of the firing pin, which projects slightly behind the slide stop. This blow given by the hammer is so sharp and quick, that it imparts considerable energy to the firing pin, which then travels forward and strikes the primer. The hammer stops on the slide stop and does not follow up the firing pin, so that the action of the firing pin is one of momentum only.

The pistol was made that way as a safety feature, so that when the hammer was down, a blow on the hammer could not possibly fire a cartridge.

The only disadvantage of the method of carrying the hammer down, is that in lowering it on a loaded cartridge, a careless person may let it slip, thus causing an accidental discharge.

You should find a statement concerning the length of the firing pin on page 84 of Pistol Marksmanship, (War Department Document No. 1050).

SPECIAL LENGTH CHAMBERS

I have read quite a lot of your writings about shotgun loads and chambers and like your methods of testing. Want to know for certain about length of shells and chambers, and would appreciate it very much if you would answer the following questions at once. I don't want to risk bursting a gun barrel, etc. I ordered a Smith Field Grade 20 gauge for quail shooting in field and thicket. Will shoot regular $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch shells mostly, but thought I could use a $2\frac{3}{4}$ -inch super X occasionally. The makers said the $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch were not satisfactory in a $2\frac{3}{4}$ -inch chamber, so they made the chambers $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. I wrote and asked them if it would be safe to use $2\frac{3}{4}$ -inch shells. Their reply was: "We do not recommend the use of longer shells in the regular chamber." I didn't expect them to recommend it, but want to know if it would be safe? Might want to put in a heavier load if I find a turkey when bird hunting. The Western regular shell is two and five-sixteenths inch Super X by two and nine-sixteenths crimped, as you know. Thought probably the reason that makers wouldn't OK the longer shell was that they thought the pattern wouldn't be good. The tag that came with my Parker 12-gauge called for two and five-eighths-inch shells: The makers wrote me that I could use two and three-quarter-inch. The first Super X I shot killed a turkey at seventy yards. Don't do much long range shooting, but would like to slip in a Super X sometimes if safe. My brother has a Smith 12-gauge (regular chambers). Could he use longer shells in that? What do you think of the twenty gauge for quail? About how long are smokeless powder shells good after being loaded? W. E. B.

Answer (by Capt. Askins): Unless your Smith 20 bore frays the end of the shell too much when shooting $2\frac{3}{4}$ -inch cases, go right along with them. I have a twenty bore Fox, chambered for $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in which I shoot Super X twenties almost exclusively. You ought to be able to do the same thing in the Smith. Makers are over cautious.

A Parker that is chambered for two and five-eighths makes its best patter with $2\frac{3}{4}$, so does a Fox, and so I believe does a Smith. The $2\frac{3}{4}$ -inch is the shell to use, in fact.

I use a twenty or a sixteen altogether on quail, never a twelve. For the last several years I have used nothing but a twenty, up to this year when I have been using a Super X sixteen. Some advantage in the sixteen, not much.

The makers of Super X claim that they have stored the shells for over a year, under all climatic conditions in the United States, sending them to one part of the country and another, not finding any change in ballistics. I had rather use a shell the same year it was loaded with some powders, but with No. 93 Du Pont, Super X powder, it doesn't appear to make much difference.



The Answer is in the Bull's-Eye

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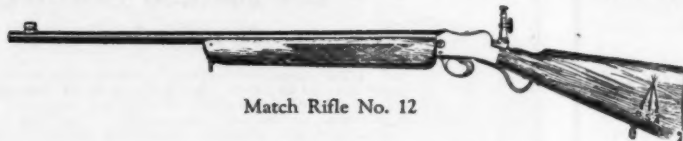
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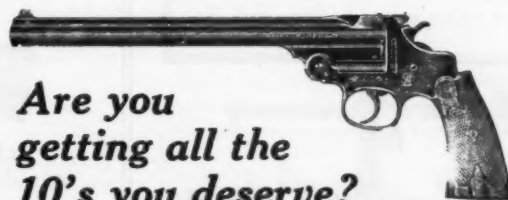
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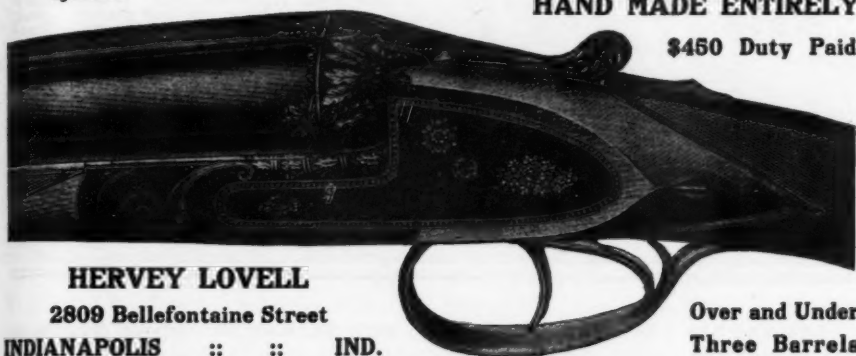
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Realizing that the free rifle game and modern long-range competitive shooting demand a type of target rifle now very difficult to obtain, I am undertaking to assemble and supply such a rifle. At present I am assembling a lot of ten rifles, for which my price will be \$175.00 each. These rifles will have special cal. 30 (Gov't. Mod. '06) heavy barrels, in Springfield receivers; pistol grip stocks, palm rests; double set triggers; my own style butt plate; sheepskin cheek pad; Lyman No. 48 rear and aperture front sights; 'scope blocks, etc. They will be very similar to the rifles I have used in the International Matches, and will embody every feature that I consider requisite in an arm of this type. Each will be carefully assembled and proved by me personally and will bear my proof mark and guarantee. As accurate and well adapted target rifles they will have no superior in the world. I shall have but the ten ready for delivery this winter. Orders will be accepted only from members of the N. R. A.

WALTER R. STOKES,

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SPRINGFIELD SET TRIGGERS

Double Set Triggers fitted to your Springfield trigger guard, complete with Sear knock-off and Sear spring, \$15.00

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Instructions In Learning Accurate Pistol Shooting

By Gunnery Sergeant John M. Thomas

SINGLE COPIES AND UNDER TEN, FIFTY CENTS

Address orders to: Gunnery Sergeant John M. Thomas

Rifle Range Detachment Parris Island, S. C.

GAS CHECK BULLET CUPS

The Belding & Mull plant now has gas check cups ready for immediate shipment. They are made to fit the twenty or more Ideal bullets of this type in the hands of the shooters.

Get midrange, deer-killing power with all home-made loads in the .25, .30, .35 and other smokeless calibers. Gas-check bullets are more accurate than plain base bullets. They are never fused by hottest smokeless powders gases.

These new Belding & Mull cups are better cups. They are made in new dies that cut and form them with great precision. Shooters will find their edges true and square; diameters and weights uniform; depths, form and fit just right.

Their handsome appearance indicates their superior accuracy.

Price, .25 caliber, \$1.75 a thousand

.30 " " 2.00 " "

BELDING & MULL, PHILIPSBURG, PA.

Makers of better Scope Sights for hunting and for target, Bullet moulds, Cast bullets, Better Cleaning Rods of Spring steel.

"Clean as a Whistle" 350

MARBLE'S

Cleaning Implements
make it easy to have a clean gun.

Jointed Rifle Rod
When screwed together it's as solid as a one-piece rod—can not wobble, bend or break. 3 brass sections, 2 steel joints, steel swivel at end, 26, 32 and 34 in. long. State length and caliber. \$1.25

Rifle Cleaner
Thoroughly cleans without injuring finest rifle—removes all lead, rust, powder residue. Softest brass gauze washers on steel wire—may be attached to any standard rod. 60c. State caliber wanted. If your dealer can't supply you, order by mail. Marble Arms & Mfg. Co., 502 DeLa Av. Gladstone, Mich.

BINOCULARS

3 to 24 Power
Every Type and Power of FIELD GLASSES, TELESCOPES, Etc.
Catalogue Free—200 Glasses
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Nitro Powder Solvent
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Guns Always Clean as a Whistle

Keep your rifle, gun, pistol in perfect shooting and resale condition. Get Hoppe's from your dealer. For sample send us 10c in stamps. Gun cleaning guide sent free.

FRANK A. HOPPE, Inc.

For more than 20 years the Authority on Gun Cleaning
2321 N. 8th Street Philadelphia, Pa.

U. S. Government Marching Compass

\$24.50 value, While they last at \$1.75



This is a brand new day and night compass made by Sperry Gyroscope Co., for U. S. Government. Luminous Dial is suspended in spirits, focusing eyepiece. Furnished with plush lined

leather case with belt loop and hooks at \$1.75. No catalogue.

Stockbridge Sporting Goods Co.
Dept. R. A. Stockbridge, Mass.

Antique.. Firearms FOR SALE AND EXCHANGE



Terms

COLLECTORS wishing to fill gaps in their exhibits and riflemen desiring to dispose of obsolete weapons will find this an excellent medium for purchases, sales and exchanges.

Free Insertions. Each subscriber is entitled to one insertion of one-half inch, when his subscription is paid up for one year. It is necessary only to write or print the text plainly, noting thereon the date subscription was paid. These advertisements will appear in the first available issue and should be in publication office two weeks prior to the following publication date.

Paid Insertions. Non-subscribers or those who have already made use of the subscriber's privilege may take advantage of these columns at a cost of \$1.00 per inch or part thereof. No advertisement for less than \$1.00 accepted. Advertisements will be set in 6 point solid. They should be in the publication office two weeks prior to the time appearance is desired.

Business cards and display in this column accepted at the rate of \$2.50 an inch. No space less than an inch sold for display.

ANTIQUE AND MODERN FIREARMS (new and used) sold, exchanged, and bought. Large stock—reasonable prices! Stephen Van Rensselaer, 873 Madison Avenue, New York City.

FOR SALE—Colt Dragoon, good shape, is nicked but good even job, round guard, square stops, slightly loose in cylinder and crimper. Price \$25.00 prepaid. A. J. Secunde, 2249 West 93rd St., Cleveland, Ohio.

GUN PARTS CHEAP—All kinds of sights. Pistol and rifle tubes, new. Butt plates, all kinds of screws, locks, cylinders, revolver frames. Hammers late and old. Gun stocks. Springs, all kinds rifle and revolver. Old and new pistol barrels, triggers, sears, blocks and actions. Everett Weaver, Boulder, Colo.

BULLET MOULDS BARGAINS—.32 S. & W., 25 cents. .38 S. & W., 20 cents. Complete set .45 Government, \$1.00. .32 U. S., fine, \$1.50. .40-330, 75 cents. C. F. .44 W., 20 cents. .31 Colt, 50 cents. .34 Colt, 50 cents. .41 Colt, 25 cents. .40-60, 20 cents. Old brass and .22, one, \$1.00. One mould, 3 sizes about .44 up, 50 cents. One 12 gauge cap, press, and cutter. \$16-gauge, etc., \$1.00. I have other kinds not mentioned. Everett Weaver, Boulder, Colorado.

"FIREARMS OF YESTERDAY" are a specialty with "THE OLD GEORGETOWN GUILD." At all times there are on hand a large number of specimens from which to select examples of early American, Confederate States' and European firearms. Tell us what your collection needs. We will probably be able to help you. The Old Georgetown Guild, 2722 M Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

FOR SALE—Obsolete gun parts. Hammer, gun and musket tubes, gun locks, etc. F. Surkammer, 54 W. Lake St., Chicago, Ill.

WANTED—Patterson Colt, Walker Colt, S. & W. .44 Russ Army, S. A. 50 Remington Navy pistol sheath trigger. Forehand & Wadsworth .44. U. S. Springfield pistol 1818. Shoulder stock for 1855 Springfield pistol Civil War Colt. Sharps Buffalo rifle 45-120-550 with cartridges. Copy Sawyer's Vol. 2 "Our Pistols and Revolvers." *Arms and the Man*, September 15, 1920, and September 15, 1921, to January 15, 1922, inclusive. J. C. Harvey, 872 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

FOR SALE—2,000 antique firearms at reasonable prices. Send six cents in stamps for 24-page price list. Let me know your special wants along any line of antique firearms. I am always anxious to buy single specimens or entire collections. Joe Kindig, Jr., 336 West Philadelphia Street, York, Pennsylvania.

WANTED—Confederate made firearms; brass frame Colt's revolvers and Tarpley's b. 1. carbine especially. Have some for exchange or will purchase. E. Berkley Bowie, 811 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md.

SPECIALIZING—In the repair or restoration of antique arms. Commissions for sale or purchase in Europe or America. Forty-year walnut blanks. State size. Albertson, Lewes, Delaware.

FOR SALE—From the Hines collection: .31 Colt in odd case, with all accessories, 6-inch barrel, \$20.00. .31 London Colt, engraved, 4-inch barrel, \$10.00. .36 caliber Manhattan Firearms Company, engraved, 4-inch barrel, \$11.00. .33 rim-fire, Ethan Allen, 5-inch barrel, nickel, \$9. C. O. D. parcel post if desired. Stockbridge Sporting Goods Company, Stockbridge, Mass.

SUBSCRIPTION TO

The American Rifleman

Enclosed, find \$..... for my subscription to "The American Rifleman," beginning with the..... issue.

Name..... Address.....

City..... State.....

Subscription \$2.00 per year to individual members of the NRA; or its affiliated clubs;
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The Arms Chest



FOR SALE—Sheep head, mounted—big size, \$90.00. Coyote mounted head rug, brand new, \$32.50. Lynx cat mounted head rug, brand new, \$32.50. Silver-tip mounted head bear rug, old but good, \$27.50. Indian tanned full-size buffalo hide, \$75.00. Dusky horned owl, mounted, brand new, \$25.00. John Rigby double-barrel Express rifle, in sole leather case with all original Rigby accessories, extra canvas carrying case, .400 bore Remington, fine, like new, \$135.00. Colt 1917 Model machine gun, brand new with tripod and belt, \$65.00. German Mauser sniper automatic, 7.62 mm., with extension stock, brand new and with twenty cartridges, \$30.00. German signal pistol, brand new, \$12.50. Austrian eight-shot revolver, good, \$14.50. Moro wavy-blade Kris-Hilt set with pearl, fine, \$14.75. Ask for list of antique firearms. F. Theodore Dexter, 802 E. Main St., Marshalltown, Iowa.

CLEARANCE SALE—6-X Prism Monoculars by Leitz, Busch, and others, \$7.00. 6-X Prism Monoculars by C. P. Goerz, \$10.00. Same by Carl Zeiss, \$12.00. 10 x 50 Carl Zeiss Prism Monocular, \$25.00. 4 x 20 C. P. Goerz Prism Monocular with leather case with shoulder strap, \$4.50. 8 x 40 Monoculars by Rodenstock, Busch, and others, \$4.00. 18 x 50 Carl Zeiss Prism Binoculars, \$70.00, including case. 10 x 50 Carl Zeiss Prism Binoculars with case, \$65.00. 8 x 40 Carl Zeiss Field Glass Binoculars, non-prismatic, with case, individual eyepiece focus, \$14.50. Pair Field Glasses by Heath and Company, London, with case, strap, \$12.50. Above glasses all in serviceable used condition. Several used Hensoldt Prism glasses at half price. State wants. .32 Savage Automatic, \$11.00. .32 Colt Automatic, \$12.00. Guaranteed pre-War .30 Luger, safety grip, \$25.00. .38 Colt 4 1/2 blue, using .38 special checkered pearl grips, leather covered box chambers lined with locks, has holes for 60 cartridges. All at \$20.00. C. O. D. Parcel Post if desired. Stockbridge Sporting Goods Co., Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—One Stevens Action No. 49 and stock, double set triggers, \$5.00. .22 cal. Model 1922 Springfield, new, .33 caliber Winchester Schoen S. S. target rifle, like new, \$35.50. S. S. Winchester pistol grip stock, fancy walnut, checked fine, \$12.50. .30 '06 Springfield Sporter, Lyman sight on bolt, like new, \$30.00. .32-40 S. S. Winchester target rifle, fancy stock, target sights, set trigger, like new, \$25.00. .38 S. & W. Special 8 1/2-inch barrel, made by Wilburn. **WANTED**—Remington Army Model Pistol, extra heavy target rifle, Winchester or Ballard action. J. C. Lichter, 1115 W. First Ave., Spokane, Wash.

FOR SALE—Steven's No. 414 .22 short with extra .25-20 S. S. target barrel. Lyman sights, extras, fine \$25.00. 7.62 mm. Russian cartridges, two cents each. .45 Colt auto. reloads three cents, empties one-half cent. Krag cartridges 2 1/2 cents. Government adjustable powder measure, fine, \$3.00. Handmade violin and outfit, fine, \$20.00. E. Richard Page, Norman, Oklahoma.

WANTED—Illinois civilians to affiliate with their local rifle club and have their club affiliate with the Illinois State Rifle Association. We want at least seven new men who have never attended National Matches to get in, and earn a place on the team. Any old-timer will be glad to give a helping hand. For information and application blanks, ask L. M. Felt, 132 S. Parkside Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

FOR SALE—30-30 Fancy, Lightweight, take-down, checkered forearm, and pistol grip, fancy selected stocks, value about \$90.00, want \$45.00. .30-30 Winchester carbine, nearly new, \$18.00. .45 Colt New Service, 5 1/2-inch barrel, walnut grips, \$18.00. .38 Iver Johnson Hammerless, \$4.50. Pre-War, encased ejector, .44 Smith & Wesson Special, 6 1/2-inch barrel, nickel, pearl grips, \$20.00. Another, blue, nearly factory new, walnut grips, \$27.50. .44 Smith & Wesson Russian, 8-inch barrel, engraved, walnut grip, \$21.00. .38 D. A. Lightning Colt, 4-inch barrel, \$14.00. .50 Remington Pistol, perfect inside, 8-inch barrel, \$16.00. About 1,000 .25-35 Winchester make, soft point bullets, 117-grain, \$7.45-1917 Smith & Wesson or Colt Revolver, \$15.38-55 Ballard Rifle, \$25.00. Another, pistol grip, special sights, \$35.00. .32-20 Colt Police Positive 4-inch barrel, \$19.00. .45 Colt Automatic, Commercial, \$21.00. .38 Colt Military Automatic, \$19.00. We can supply practically any article in the sporting line that you need. Stockbridge Spg. Goods., Stockbridge, Mass. What do you need and how much will you pay?

FOR SALE—One Marlin No. 39, \$20.00. One Reising automatic pistol, \$20.00. One Colt Army Special, 6-in. barrel, \$18.00. One 12-ga. 30-inch Winchester repeating shotgun, ribbed barrel, \$25.00. All the above in good condition. One .22-32 S. & W., almost new, \$20.00. One 16-size, 992 Hamilton movement, 21 jewels, 20-year Boss case, like new, in every way, \$40.00. **WANTED**—One S. & W. perfected model, 16-inch barrel. Must be in fine condition. One Springfield '03, good condition. Arthur P. Lytle, Livingston, Montana.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Winchester self-loading shotgun, 12-ga., 26-in. cylinder, bluing slightly worn on outside otherwise perfect, \$35.00. Or will trade for new .22-cal. Colt automatic with holster and extra magazine. No other trades considered. W. L. Rodney, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Kodaks, Graflex cameras, lenses, binoculars at lowest prices, new and slightly used. We take your camera or high grade firearms in trade. National Camera Exchange, 7th & Marquette Streets, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

FOR SALE—One Remington 20-gauge repeating shotgun, Model 1917. Brand new, in factory condition and out. First money order for \$43.00 takes it. Robert Crawford, Jr., Westford, Penna.

FOR SALE—One Model 52 Winchester, in very good condition, equipped with Stevens' Scope and No. 48 Lyman Rear Sight, sheared and Winchester globe front sight. Make offer. Box 18, THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.

WANTED—Smith & Wesson New Departure Model 38-cal. hammerless, 3 1/4- or 4-inch barrel. R. P. Inspeker, Gallup, New Mexico.

WANTED—High-grade guns, second hand. Condition no object. State particulars fully. F. Surkamer, 64 W. Lake St., Chicago, Ill.

Terms

THE uniformly excellent returns from advertisements appearing in the classified columns of **THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN** make it a most satisfactory and productive medium for the disposal of surplus shooting equipment, or the acquisition of special types of firearms.

Free Insertions. Each subscriber is entitled to one insertion of one-half inch, when his subscription is paid up for one year. It is necessary only to write or print the text plainly, noting thereon the date subscription was paid. These advertisements will appear in the first available issue and should be in publication office two weeks prior to the following publication date.

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WANTED—A winning Civilian Team from Pennsylvania at the National Hatches this fall and every shooter in Pennsylvania to correspond with C. T. Paterson, 843 Napier Ave., Laurence Park, Erie, Pennsylvania.

FOR SALE—Good Russian 7.62 mm. rifle "as issued" and about 350 cartridges, all for \$15.00, f. o. b., or \$5.00 for rifle and \$1.50 per hundred for cartridges. Colt 1901 (cal. .38 Long Colt) revolver, 6-inches blued, excellent condition and with 1909 russet holster, for \$15.00. H. & R. .32, 5-shot, 3-inch nicked revolver, no trigger spring, \$1.50. U. S. Light Cavalry Saber, Model 1906, with scabbard, \$3.00. U. S. Model 1898 (Krag) bayonet with scabbard, \$1.00. New "tin hat," \$1.00. Pair of old regulation U. S. spurs (with rowels), complete with straps, 85 cents. Set of U. S. steel letters and figures for stamping on metal, etc., \$1.25. U. S. Army russet riding bridle, 2 bits and double reins, \$3. Good Seneca 4 x 5 plate camera, r. r. lens, also auxiliary copying lens, and 6 plate holders, \$5.50. E. K. Co. folding metal tripod, \$1.50. Brownie No. 2 developing box for U. P. and 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 roll films (never used) \$1.00. Everything except rifle and cartridges postpaid in U. S. Will consider offer for a No. 3-A Folding Anasco Camera, f:7.5 "Modico" Anastigmatic lens in "Universal" shutter, with carrying case. Good as new condition mechanically. **WANTED**—To trade for or buy a S & W .22-32, or Colt .22 Auto.; and a compact folding 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 roll film camera with anastigmatic lens. All must be in good condition. O. W. Brown, Box 106, Cambria, Iowa.

FOR SALE—45 S. A. Colt revolver, 5-inch barrel and one 7 1/2-inch barrel, both old U. S. Army guns, \$15.00 each; .45 Colt automatic pistol Government model, \$16.00; .45 Colt automatic pistol Government model, commercial gun in fine condition, almost new, \$25.00; .45 S & W revolver, Model 1917, with extra new barrel, \$20.00. One pair French field glasses about 6-power, \$5. **WANTED**—Pre-war barrel for 7.65 mm. Luger pistol, must be in perfect condition inside. W. L. Darling, Custom House, Boston, Mass.

FOR SALE—Winchester Model 94 rifle, 30-30 cal., good as new, with Ideal No. 6 reloading tool. D. A. chamber and bullet mould, \$23.00. One copy Dr. Mann's book, "Flight of Bullet from Powder to Target," new condition. A great book and getting scarce, \$10.00. L. H. Sholts, Cedar Bluffs, Nebr.

TRADE OR SELL—30 Remington Auto., fine, \$45.00; .38 S & W Spl. and tools, fine, \$35.00. 3 1/4 x 5 1/2 plate camera and outfit, fine, \$20.00; Pedometer \$1.00; Elk leather. **WANT**—20-ga. dbl.; Win. .30 '06 Carbine; 35 Rem. Pump. T. H. Hildeman, Austin, Mont.

FOR SALE—Springfield-Niedner .22 cal. rifle, 28-inch heavy straight taper barrel, 6 grooves, perfect inside and super accurate, blade front and 48 rear sight, block for Belding & Muhl No. 3 scope base. Cost \$75.00, take \$50.00, or trade for single shot .22 cal. of equal value. R. Mosteller, Box 975, Columbus, Georgia.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—For .22 Winchester Repeater in good condition, one Kentucky Long Tom and one .45-70 Springfield carbine. A. B. Gleason, 604 Park Road, N. W., Washington, District of Columbia.

WANTED—22 barrel, 30 inches or longer, one inch outside. Will exchange 10-inch S & W target pistol or Winchester B-3 scope. F. C. Payne, 3226 E. 5th St., Los Angeles, Cal.

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Mr. Marcus W. Dinwiddie of Washington, D.C.

Remarkable Shooting

BY

Washington High School Boy

Shooting a Springfield rifle, iron sights, and Remington Palma .22 long rifle cartridges at 50 feet in the annual shoulder-to-shoulder championship competitions of the Washington High Schools, the conditions of which call for forty shots, ten in each position of standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone. Mr. Marcus W. Dinwiddie, seventeen year old Washington High School boy, on April 11th scored 397 out of the possible 400. He made perfect scores of 100 in the sitting and prone position, and 99 and 98 standing and kneeling respectively.

The shooting was witnessed, of course, by competitors and officials alike and we are privileged to print the following letter just received from Mr. Walter R. Stokes, who knows good shooting when he sees it:

Under separate cover I am forwarding to you a set of four targets which represents the most phenomenal gallery shooting I have ever witnessed. Sergt. Schriver concurs with me in this opinion. These targets were fired in shoulder-to-shoulder competitions in the annual championship matches of the Washington High Schools, and for shoulder-to-shoulder match shooting I am confident that they show a total score which has never been equaled in the country.

This shooting was no fluke performance (indeed such a thing is impossible, firing in all four positions); Dinwiddie has done consistently remarkable work all winter. Of course Dinwiddie uses Palma ammunition as do all of our star Washington riflemen. Signed (Walter R. Stokes).

Thus are the consistently uniform shooting and grouping qualities of the Remington Palma cartridge reflected in these wonderful groups.

REPRODUCED EXACT SIZE



STANDING
SCORE 99



KNEELING
SCORE 98



SITTING
SCORE 100



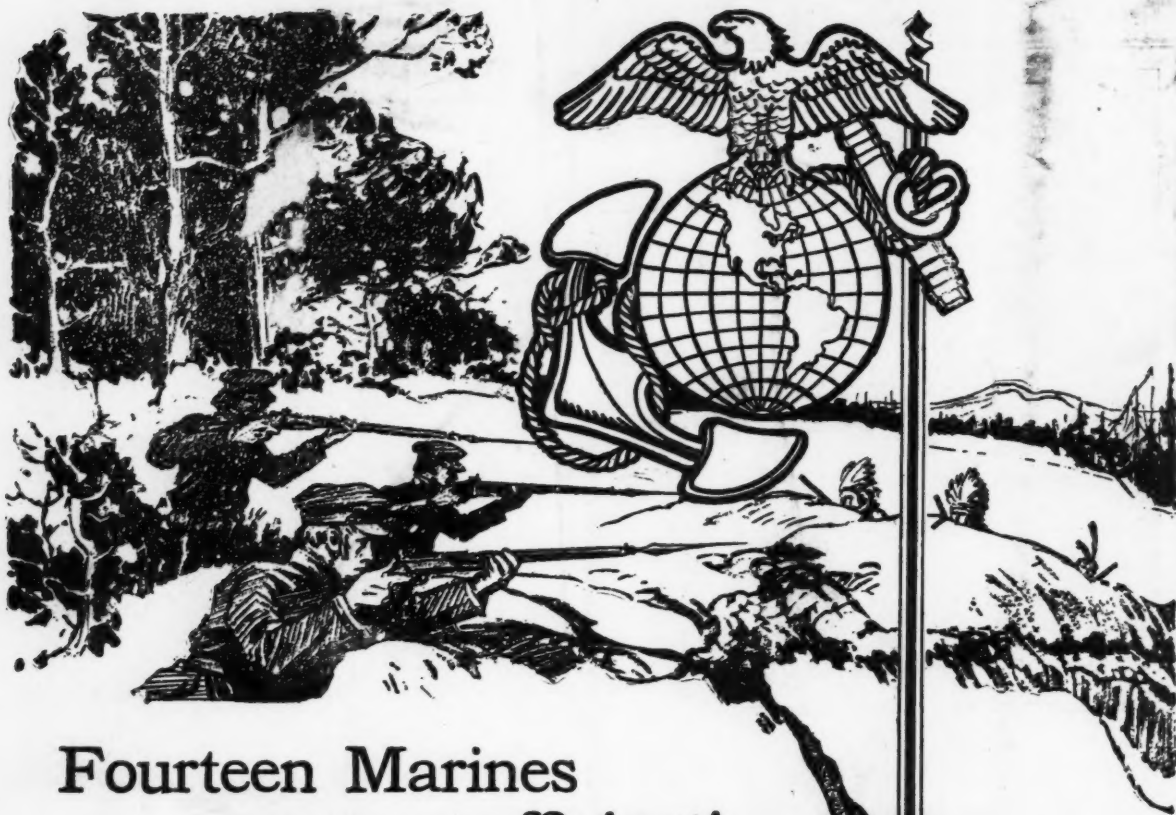
PRONE
SCORE 100



REMINGTON PALMA

The Premier .22 Long Rifle Cartridge





Fourteen Marines were sufficient!

When bands of hostile Indians attacked Seattle in 1856, fourteen marines were put ashore from the sloop Decatur to keep them at bay while the women and children were carried to safety.

The du Pont Company served them, as it has always served our troops in the field, by providing the United States Government with an unfailing supply of powder.

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & CO., Inc.
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



In 1802 practically all du Pont powder was used for military purposes. Today more than 98% of du Pont explosives are used in the arts of peace.

